Recto no loss at all to Palace, says Ermita

ACROSS / A11

Gov. Ed Panlilio loses first round in recount

NEWS / A2

RP peace talks with Reds in peril, says NDF

NEWS / A2

Villar ethics probe: Senators to open financial records for insertions

WORLD / A17

US official hard put to explain Hillary's outburst over Bill

By TJ Burgonio and Ronnel W. Domingo

SOCIOECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY Ralph Recto who is resigning his post effective Aug. 16 to run for senator next year is not a "loss" to Malacañang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday said.

"I wouldn't consider it a loss at all. If you notice, in the first place, among Cabinet members, I recall that Secretary Recto was among those recently appointed by the President," Ermita said.

RECTO A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, August 13, 2009 ★ 5 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 268 P18

NP, NPC, Lakas-Kampi talk coalition informally

By Lala B. Salamero

REP. MANUEL VILLAR OF THE Nacionalista Party and members of the Nacionalist People's Coalition are holding informal talks with the administration party for a possible coalition in the 2010 polls, according to a Lakas-Kampi official.

Reginald Velasco, deputy secretary

NP/NPC A3

Cory buried martial law

Miriam supports Villar run

By Michael Lim Ubac

IN WHAT COULD SIGNAL THE start of major political realignments in the 2010 polls, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday said she would support the presidential candidacy of Sen. Manuel Villar and join his ticket if she seeks reelection.

Former Sen. Ralph Recto, who quit President Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet on Tuesday to prepare for another Senate run, is also making himself available to all political parties.

Santiago, a staunch administration ally said Villar, who belongs to the Nacionalista Party (NP), had formally asked her to seek another term in his slate. "I told him that I will give him prior-

MIRIAM A7

THE BIG REVEAL Bachelor Sen. Noynoy Aquino admits for the first time on Wednesday that he has a girlfriend and that he and Shalani Soledad (right) are celebrating their first anniversary as a couple next month. The late President Cory looked like she would have approved. This photo was taken during the premier of "Cory, the Musical" at the Meralco Theater in November, 2008. (See story on Page A4.)

Think tank says road to 2010 smoother

By Doris C. Dumlao

EVEN IN DEATH, FORmer President Corazon Aquino did Filipinos one last favor by paving a smoother road to the 2010 presidential election, according to the New York-based think tank Global Source.

In a report dated Aug. 11 and titled "The Road Gets Easier," Global Source said concerns over a potential upheaval in the political system arising from a premeditated change in the Constitution or even a "soft coup" to extend the party rule of outgoing President Macapagal-Arroyo had become increasingly irrelevant.

"How that significantly changes the matrix of succession is the demise of Corazon Aquino. In the past, we had argued that chances of Charter change succeeding through strictly constitutional processes before next year's elections are slim but left some possibility of high-risk political schemes being pulled, such as emergency rule or martial law, in order to force the desired changes," Global Source said in the report written by Filipino economists Romeo Bernardo and Margarita Gonzales.

In Global Source's view, the death of Aquino, the heroine of the 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution and a world icon of democracy, put an end to such scenarios.

"Huge crowds at her burial [on Aug. 5] offer would-be plotters a preview of what awaits them if they pursue their schemes. While memories are fresh, the 1987 Constitution would be almost untouchable as it forms part of what many consider as the Aquino legacy," it said, adding:

"Hence, even if a constituent assembly were to be suddenly convened and a referendum organized, the answer of the people would likely be 'no' to honor a woman elevated by public acclaim to near sainthood."

Global Source noted that Malacañang had already asked its allies in Congress to seal their push for Charter change.

CORY A4

Ex-envoy to US confirms GMA plan for military rule

By Ambassador Albert F. del Rosario

AT THE BISHOPS-BUSINESSmen's conference a few weeks ago, the possibilities of a declaration of emergency rule or an imposition of martial law were among the topics discussed.

In that regard, I am prepared to sadly confirm that our incumbent national leadership would indeed be capable of placing our democracy at great risk in pursuit of its survival.

The past week, our nation found itself deeply mourning the immeasurable loss of our beloved former President Corazon Aquino, who was responsible not only for ousting a dictator but also for restoring our democratic institutions.

As we quietly paid tribute to our one and only charismatic leader at La Salle Green Hills, I was overwhelmingly reminded that each of us has a responsibility to contribute to the defense of our democracy.

Having served as the Philippine envoy to the United States in 2001-2006, I decided that I, too, should contemplate how I could make my own contribution under the present conditions. This humble contribution, intended to guard our democracy, has been fully earned by the Filipino people under President Cory Aquino's leadership.

I believe our people are fully entitled to know this with certainty if we expect to advance the concept of a proactive citizenship and to encourage vigilance at all times to the protection of our democratic freedom.

The facts as related would also serve to provide a measure-

ELSEWHERE A6

Speaker: All infomercials same banana

By Gil C. Cabunegan Jr.

WHAT IS GOOD FOR SENAtors should also be good for Cabinet secretaries.

Speaker Prospero Nograles does not see anything wrong with the President's men appearing in TV commercials promoting the work of their respective agencies because they were no different from the ads of senators enrolling their achievements or expressing their love for the masses.

"Come to think of it, they are the same banana," said Nograles, who is facing an ethics complaint for sitting on a House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET) recommendation disqualifying actor Dan Fernandez as representative of Laguna's first district.

The complaint was filed by election lawyer Sixto Brillantes.

SPEAKER A7

US warship home to 300 Fil-Am sailors

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FROM AFAR, THE GRAY HUNK of steel riding the waters of Manila Bay looked cold and ominous.

But the USS George Washington, considered the world's largest warship of its class, is home to roughly 300 Filipinos who help more than 5,000 American sailors operate the mighty aircraft carrier.

Entering Philippine waters for the first time on Tuesday, the George Washington is on a four-day goodwill visit to Manila. The crew is taking part in various humanitarian projects such as tree-planting activities, repainting and building of public school libraries and hospital visits, among others.

A read-along session at the Inquirer office tomorrow will also have a George Washington crew member as a storyteller.

It was the first US aircraft carrier to make a port visit in

US WARSHIP A7

GOOD SHIP American sailors from the USS George Washington are here to hold goodwill activities for four days to include tree-planting and construction of libraries in schools, among others. They interact with students of Bianca Elementary School who gift them with artworks made by them to mark International Youth Day on Wednesday.

Erap tops SWS survey; ex-Kampi chair backs Chiz

By Fe Zamora and Juan Escandor Jr.

RESULTS OF A SURVEY SHOWing former President Joseph Estrada ahead of the possible contenders in the 2010 presidential election may encourage him to run again, he said yesterday.

"That might convince me," Estrada told the Inquirer.

In a nationwide survey that Social Weather Stations (SWS) conducted in June, Estrada got 33 percent, followed by Sen. Manuel Villar, who received 19 percent.

The survey covered 1,500 respondents and had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points, according to a report yesterday of The Daily Tribune on the survey results.

Estrada and Villar are in a statistical tie because of the margin of error.

Within striking distance is Sen. Francisco "Chiz" Escudero, who received 18 percent.

Vice President Noli de Castro, the erstwhile leading presidential hopeful in past surveys, slipped to No. 4, getting 13 percent.

Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II was fifth, with 9 percent, and Sen. Loren Legarda sixth, with 7 percent.

SWS asked each respondent to name just one person as his or her presidential choice, according to The Tribune.

Estrada has been threatening to run if the opposition fails to field a credible candidate in the May 2010 elections.

ERAP A3

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Low cld mst clouds clear off late aft isol sh Manila scttrd sh/t'storms/overcast mostly cloudy/sh/t'storms aft mod-rate SE/ESE 15-25 kph; 24-32 deg C; 70% chc rain

Baguio	Cloudy with rain	Kalibo	Mostly cloudy
Dagupan	Cloudy with rain	Iloilo	Mostly cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with rain	Tacloban	Mostly cloudy
Clark field	Cloudy with rain	San Jose	Partly cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with rain	Zamboanga	Partly cloudy
Catarman	Cloudy with rain	Cagayan de Oro	Partly cloudy
Cebu	Cloudy with rain	Davao	Partly cloudy

Source: Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration

Second FRONTPAGE

Editorial: pinoyinquirer.com/frontpage Website: www.inquirer.net

EZ2 (2PM Draw, 9PM Draw): 11 5 6 1

SUERTRES (2PM Draw, 5PM Draw, 9PM Draw): 2 4 9 / 9 4 7 / 2 7 7

FOUR DIGIT (2PM Draw, 5PM Draw, 9PM Draw): 9 1 2 2 / 2 7 7

MEGALOTTO 6/45: 5 14 22 23 28 39

P13,560,796.80

Talks to resume, gov't says

THE GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY INSISTED THAT peace talks with the communist rebels will resume as planned later this month in Norway.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the resumption of the stalled negotiations to end the 40-year communist insurgency would be held as scheduled from Aug. 28 to Sept. 5 in Oslo.

The government peace panel urged the communist National Democratic Front to avoid issuing statements that could scuttle the planned talks, saying it was "bending over backwards" to accommodate the NDFP's requests.

The Netherlands-based head of the NDF peace panel, Luis Jalandoni, said in a statement sent to news agencies yesterday that he doubted the meetings would be held.

Jalandoni said the government's failure to release jailed consultants guerrilla leaders who would be participating in the talks, as previously agreed.

He said there were wrong indications that the government intended to "scuttle the accumulation of the said talks."

The government peace panel said the two sides should "work out [their] differences through direct communications or through the Norwegian facilitator in place of other media."

"The sudden pronounce of the NDF over the scheduled talks is not very encouraging, as negotiations require a determination to be positive and to demonstrate sincerity and good-faithing and cooperation," it said.

Looking into the cases

Ermita told the legal team of the two sides were now looking into the cases of 86 communists whose names appear in the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig).

He said the government was also validating some of the names submitted by the NDF, noting that some are the leaders' aliases.

"I'm sure it's understandable that when the government has to bend over backwards, you go through the legal process of asking the courts to allow the travel of those who are officially cited in high-ranking enough to participate as a consultant in the negotiations," he said.

"So I don't see what instruments they are talking about ... the government is taking every effort to let the talks move forward."

The government panel said the government was trying to meet the agreement's deadline in the case of the NDF based on "what is legally and constitutionally legitimate."

"However, as a responsible government, we must balance our people's welfare interest. Going to the table shall be for peace, and not merely for talks," it said.

The NDF claimed that one of its leaders, Elizabeth Principe, was released not because of its June 31 agreement with the government reached during informal talks in The Hague. **Christine U. Esguerra with AFP**

VILLAR ETHICS PROBE

Senators agree to open 'can of worms' on insertions

By Christine O. Avendaño

IT WILL SOON BE REVEALED which of the senators have made threats of massive insertions and realignments in previous budgets.

The senators yesterday agreed to subpoena the records of the Senate finance committee in connection with the C5 road extension controversy involving Sen. Manuel Villar Jr.

The Senate, acting as the committee of the whole, held its much-awaited hearing yesterday on the ethics complaint filed against Villar by Sen. Jamby Madrigal.

After Madrigal said that she was making it difficult to get the documents from the Department of Public Works and Highways relating to the budget realignments of the C5 road extension project, Sen. Franklin Drilon then moved to subpoena the records from the Legislative Budget and Research Bureau (Lbrd) and Senate Bookkeeping Office (SBO), which is under the Senate finance committee.

"There, we can find out who inserted what and who realigned what," Drilon said, adding that it would "open a can of worms."

Resumption of probe

Madrigal resumed the presentation of her evidence against Villar when she left in recess of being berated the secretary of the cluelon Sandiag for the C5 road extension project to the 2008 national budget and the diversion of the road to benefit his real estate empire.

Madrigal also accused Villar of being involved in a scam similar to the one perpetrated by Delta Motor Sports, the founder of the collapsed Legacy group of rural banks and pre-need companies.

Zeroing in these into that Villar had told to the government as right of ways in the C5 road extension project, Madrigal alleged that the Villar companies received the lots in 1996 for P42 million but mortgaged them for P2B13 million to fat-cats Land, Cash (Philippines) Bank.

Pilars Capital Bank encountered serious financial troubles in 1998, she said. Villar sought and got emergency funding from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) worth P13.5 billion.

The senator said Villar later sold the same three lots, which were already foreclosed with the BSP, to the government at a right of way in the C5 road extension project.

"Or los Angeles apparently involved from the Villars," Madrigal said.

Villar and his camp immediately denied Madrigal's allegations. They said her latest allegations were outside the jurisdiction of the Senate committee of the whole as it involved acts that Villar allegedly committed when he was not yet a senator.

In 2000, Villar was still a congressman representing Las Piñas.

New allegations

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said the new allegations against Villar would not be included in the ethical misconduct complaint as he was not yet a member of the Senate when they were allegedly committed.

Villar has boycotted the Senate inquiry on the C5 controversy, saying the whole case was politically motivated as he had declared his plans to run for president next year.

"I think it's about time we all or look at the familiar spectacle of the other presidentiables and why is that the Senate is being used by campaigning," Villar said.

Madrigal has also declared her intention to run for President in 2010. Senators Panfilo Lacson and Loren Legarda are also known to have similar plans.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said it would be better for the Senate to drop the complaint against Villar now that Madrigal has declared that she was running for president.

Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer. INQUIRER

BABANGON BA TAYO SA HIRAP?

EDDIE SYEMPRE!

BRO EDDIE VILLANUEVA PARA SA PILIPINO

Join the BAGONG PILIPINAS BAGONG PILIPINO MOVEMENT

Visit www.bagongpilipinas.org

Tomorrow, Friday 2-HOUR SPECIAL 10am to 12nn

Take extra 10% off

for SM Advantage, SM Prestige & BDO Rewards Card members only.

up to 50% off on great selections

3-DAY Sale

August 14, 15 & 16

Enjoy 5% REBATE when you use your BDO CREDIT CARD with a minimum P5,000 purchase

WIN every HOUR!

Be one of the 180 winners of PLDT CALL ALL with FREE cellphone!

Get 0% INTEREST On 3 months installment

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

STA. MESA • STA. ROSA • BALIWAG • CEBU • BACOLOD • CAGAYAN DE ORO

Sorry, Josh, Tito Noy has a girlfriend

By Christine O. Avendaño

YES, SEN. BENIGNO "NOYNOY" Aquino III has a girlfriend. She is a councilor in Valenzuela City.

No, he did not think she was pleasing to run for Congress.

These were Aquino's cautious answers when he was peppered with questions yesterday about gossip circulating in text messages and the Internet that his girlfriend, whom he refused to name, was eyeing a congressional seat.

"I think she's opting for reelection," Aquino told reporters. "She hasn't told me she has changed her mind," said Aquino, but quickly added that it would be up to her girlfriend to decide what political road to take, and that he would be there to support her.

It was the first time the bachelor senator, who is now being touted as a possible presidential candidate, talked about his personal life.

Aquino, the only son of the late President Cory and martyred opposition leader Ninoy Aquino, both national icons, revealed that he and his girlfriend would celebrate their first anniversary on a couple next month.

He had already introduced her to his mother, who died on Aug. 1.

Aquino appealed to reporters not to issue that he name her. He said his girlfriend had been recently at the receiving end of many requests by some people.

"I don't want to add to the chaos in her life," Aquino said.

The tabloid People's Tonight, however, has already identified the senator's girlfriend as 28-year-old Councilor Shalani Soledad of Valenzuela City.

Asked if his girlfriend would be supportive if ever he decides to seek the presidency next year, Aquino said they haven't had time to discuss the issue.

"I don't think if I have a decision she will not be supportive of it," he said.

In his public response during the funeral mass for the late President Cory, his sister and TV star Kris Aquino, quoted her son Josh as saying salaw lak nede bispuy not to get married. Kris, however, followed this up by asking the senator had her blessings to "get a life whenever makes him happy."

Soledad's official website describes her as a native of Consolacion and a graduate of Human Resources Management at De La Salle's College of St. Benilde.

Lacson staffer

She used to work in the Senate as a staffer in the office of Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the Senate (2001-2007).

A source close to Aquino claimed the two first met in 2000 or 2001 when Soledad interviewed him for a media project. They met again, this time by accident, in August 2009 at Alfredo's restaurant in Quezon City. Both were dining with their respective friends but they had their picture taken with each other and exchanged phone numbers.

The following month, Aquino reportedly introduced her to some of his friends, although he said they were just getting out.

Aquino had been previously linked to a newscaster, a staffer of hers, Francis Pangilinan and a reporter.

Aquino is also known to have dated news anchors Korina Sanchez (now engaged to Sen. Mar Roxas) and Bernadette Sembrano.

NOYNOY with girlfriend Shalani Soledad. PHOTO COURTESY OF PEOPLE TONIGHT

Correction

IN THE AUG. 11 ISSUE, the front-page banner story—"Palace won't say sorry"—carried an erroneous sentence: "Had Ms. Aquino summoned a simple clarity, she should have chosen a simple statement, Cruz added." Archbishop Oscar Cruz was referring to President Macapagal-Arroyo—not the late former President Corazon Aquino.

Court rules against RJ, awards land to PNB

By Norman Bordadora

THE COURT OF APPEALS (CA) ordered a blatant regional trial court to award a 9,166-square-meter property in the middle of the city's financial district to the Philippine National Bank after its owner, businessman-musician Ramon Jacinto, failed to settle arrears of more than P6 billion.

The appellate court's Eighth Division reversed the conclusion of Branch 132 of the Makati court last April that ordered the PNB to return the 9,000-sq m property at the corner of Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue and Dela de Roxas to Jacinto.

The 31-page decision penned by Associate Justice Ramon Bato also required the Makati court to return PNB's possession over pieces of property to Tagaytay that were used by Jacinto as collateral for loans from the PNB.

"The Court is simply perplexed as to how the [Jacinto] court could have ordered the restoration of possession of the Buendia [Gil Puyat] and Tagaytay properties which had already been foreclosed by petitioner bank, to its steadied will of ejectment, issued on March 18, 2009," the appellate court said.

There was nothing in the Supreme Court decision, nor from the decision of this Court, about the restoration of possession over the Buendia property to the RJ Ventures out of the Tagaytay properties to RJS Development Corporation," it added.

The appellate court said the Makati court had issued the questionable writ of execution supposedly in line with a final and executory decision of the Supreme Court in the PNB's case against Jacinto's RJ Ventures Realty Development Corporation and Republic Surety Insurance Co., Inc.

The high tribunal in that September 2008 decision upheld the appellate court's reinstatement of the injunction issued on May 26, 1999, by the Makati RTC Branch 66 that stopped the PNB from "foreclosing all collaterals [including] mortgaged" by RJ Ventures Realty Incorporated, it said, for ...

But the appellate court in its latest ruling said that the Supreme Court had stopped the foreclosure only of the broadcasting equipment of Radio Broadcasting Network in several parts of the country.

It said the Buendia and Tagaytay properties were not covered by the injunction.

GMA stops short of condemning Suu Kyi verdict

By TJ Burgonio and Nikko Dizon

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo yesterday stopped short of condemning the conviction of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, saying the ruling should be reconsidered, as her executive secretary invoked the "sensitivities" of the issue.

A court found Suu Kyi guilty of violating her house arrest by allowing an uninvited American to stay at her home. She was ordered her to serve 18 months under house arrest.

Push for democracy

"She is [seen] positive now, President Macapagal-Arroyo wishes that there should be a consideration of that decision of Myanmar government so that it will help in pushing for democracy in Myanmar," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said.

Ermita said Suu Kyi's case was a highly sensitive issue and that his boss would rather ask Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo's statement on Tuesday. Romulo called the conviction "incomprehensible" and deplorable.

Taipan keeps hands off brother's woes with maid

THE CAMP OF BILLIONAIRE LUCIO Tan yesterday issued a statement distancing the tycoon from a recent scandal involving the alleged detention and mal-treatment of a homemaid by his youngest brother's family.

Tan and his brother, Mateo Tanenglian, have houses in the same compound in Quezon City but are reportedly feuding.

Lucio Tan Group spokesperson, retired Lt. Gen. Salvador M. Mison issued the clarification after reports came out about the rescue of an 18-year-old maid from Tanenglian's residence on Monday by combined elements of the Commission on Human Rights, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and Quezon City police.

"While it is true that Lucio Tan and Mateo Tanenglian live in the same compound in Quezon City, they operate separate and independent households. They also have different sets of house helpers," Mison explained.

"We are saddened by this unfortunate turn of events. We hope Tanenglian's family would be able to explain their side in the proper forum," he added.

Mison, who is also president of Tan's holding firm Basic Holdings Corp., stressed that the taipan was not of the country when the incident occurred. He learned about it from family members and media reports.

Lawyer Nena Made Tiradal said the tycoon's son, Mateo Jose Soldao, 18, was employed when she was only 13 and was not allowed to go out of the house or communicate with relatives during her stay at the Tanenglian house. Her relatives were worried about her and complained to authorities.

Chief Insp. Melchisedec Reyes, head of the Quezon City Police District Women's Section, said a lawyer representing the Tanenglian family faced the girl's relatives. Tan's brothers were not allowed in.

Reyes said "the girl was released after she was barred to sign a document saying she and her father would no longer file a case against the employer."

"The father of the girl was given P150,000 representing her salary and bonus," Reyes said, adding: "We were told the employer also offered to pay for their plane fare."

The agreement, counted in Filipino, was also signed by the girl's father and the chair of the Sen. Domingo Santiago, Barangay 266, who accompanied the rescue team, Reyes said.

"It was signed by the victim under duress, so she could leave the house," added Reyes. Nestor Corrales

Correction

IN THE AUG. 11 ISSUE, the front-page banner story—"Palace won't say sorry"—carried an erroneous sentence: "Had Ms. Aquino summoned a simple clarity, she should have chosen a simple statement, Cruz added." Archbishop Oscar Cruz was referring to President Macapagal-Arroyo—not the late former President Corazon Aquino.

Court freezes bank accounts of Sulu mayor

By Norman Bordadora

THE COURT OF APPEALS (CA) Tuesday issued a freeze order on the bank accounts of Jolo, Sulu Mayor Sakur Tan and those of his two sons Haider and Khair in connection with their alleged involvement in the kidnap for ransom of ABS-CBN news reporter Ces Drilon and her two companions.

The appellate court's Special Third Division issued the 20-day freeze order on the basis of a petition filed by the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

"As aptly noted by the Office of the Solicitor General, there is reasonable ground to believe that Akmad Ismail and Haider Ismail may have deposited part of the ransom money in their bank accounts," the decision read.

"As for Khan Ismail, considering the circumstances involved, may have derived pecuniary benefits from the crime. Thus, any freeze order should include him as well," it added.

The freeze order covered the mayor's accounts at the Land Bank of the Philippines branch in Cotabato and at the Philippine National Bank; Haider's account at the PNB; and Khan's account at the PNB in Zamboanga City.

Also frozen was the bank account of Haider under account no. 104012300's at PNB and Khan's bank account with account no. 514877941 at PNB Climaco Branch in Zamboanga City.

The Department of Justice has already filed the appropriate charges in court against the kinsfolk in connection with their alleged involvement in the Abu Sayyaf Group's kidnap for ransom in June 2008 of Drilon and camera crew Dennylfred Encomienda and Angelo Valderrama.

Vendors Ladera Jr., a second-year high school drop-out, is one of the many successful trainees of Fish Cage Caretaker training program of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) under Regional Director Nestor Domingo. An activity dubbed Hunger Mitigation Program (HMP), it operates also within the Barangay Macabalan Park in Cagayan de Oro City. Ladera enjoys his job taking care of tilapia fingerlings. Thanks to the HMP and the BFAR, Ladera's earnings have improved compared to his previous income as a tricycle driver.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, August 12, 2010, 19th Week in Ordinary Time
Psalter: Thursday

1st Reading: Jer 3:7-18a, 15, 18-17
Gospel: Mt 14:22-36

Jesus asked Jesus, "Lord, how many times must I forgive the offenses of my brother or sister? Seven times?" Jesus answered, "No, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

Then Jesus narrates his fight for the Kingdom of Heaven. A king decided to settle the accounts of his servants. Among the first was one who owed him ten thousand gold pieces. As the man could not repay the debt, the king commanded that he be sold as a slave with his wife, children and all his property.

The official threw himself at the king's feet and said, "Give me time, and I will pay you back everything." The king took pity on him and not only let him free but even canceled his debt.

This official then left the king's presence and he met one of his companions who owed him a hundred pieces of silver. He grabbed him by the neck and almost strangled him, demanding, "Pay me what you owe!" His companion threw himself at his feet and asked him, "Give me time, and I will pay everything." The other did not agree, but had him in prison until he had paid all his debt.

His companions saw what happened. They were indignant and so they went and reported everything to their lord. Then the lord summoned his official and said, "Wicked servant, I forgave you all that you owed me because you begged me to do so. Weren't you bound to have pity on your companion as I had pity on you?" The lord was now angry, so he handed his servant over to the punishment, until he had paid the whole debt."

Jesus added, "So will my heavenly Father do with you unless each of you sincerely forgives your brother."

When Jesus had finished this teaching, he left Galilee and arrived in the borders of Judea, on the other side of the Jordan River.

Commentary:

As we reach the end of life, we are encouraged to audit as far as we can, always depending on God for direction. We must acquire and preserve a sense of being godways that we have not passed before, but, citing the pathways of hope, we must proceed with boldness and thankfulness. Whether we are entirely right, poverty, pain, labor, or persecution, we are following the teacher and the object of our faith. The miracle of God's love and power is expanded in us. God's love for us ought to encourage our hope that power will be until us, just as it always was until the Israelites.

'Finding God' book launching tomorrow

IN TROUBLED TIMES, PEOPLE seek solace and strength in a Divine Being, who never fails to respond to those who ask.

Time moments and encounters with God are recounted in a book titled "Finding God," which will be launched tomorrow at 6 p.m. at the Museum Sentimo Cebuano. It and on Aug. 13 at 6 p.m. at Provincebooks Cebu.

The editors of the collection, four friends and longtime collaborators Cecilia Margarita Benavid and Maely Yap Dena oversaw that putting the book together was truly an act of God.

The essays on death, sickness, family issues and marital infidelity are all engaging in their sincerity. They all reflect the courageous sharing of the writers' innermost thoughts and feelings.

The contributors are rich and varied in different ages and from diverse backgrounds. They are Milo Aguilar, Marilyn Begino Sison, MD Bedolfo, Tony Febles, Edgar Fresco, Alleen Bandolama, Pauline Lim, Fr. MD Esteban Godinez, Raquel Villavicencio Bolaños, Brian Gordon Foley, Meribeth Arquiza Tan, Sam R. Mattison, Rhea Pacanem Ibe, Maria C. Sophia Bordolano, Joan Evangelista and Teresa Cordaida.

US paper: Another GMA dinner cost $15,000

By Juliet Javellana, Alcuin Papa and Christian V. Esguerra

LUXIO WHO CAME TO ANOTHER BIRTHday Stateside dinner?

After a New York newspaper reported earlier that President Macapagal-Arroyo's party missed and dined at the cost of $15,000 (about P1 million) at Le Cirque Restaurant in the Big Apple early this month, another US publication has come out with a story on yet another dinner for the presidential entourage in a Washington restaurant, this time costing $15,000.

According to the article "Members Only? Not Big Shrub" serialized in The Washington Post's "The Reliable Source," Mr. Arroyo's party of 65 dined at the Bobby Van's Steakhouse on 18th Street NW hours after her meeting with US President Barack Obama at the White House on July 31.

The Washington Post was the second paper to carry an item about an expensive dinner held by Mr Arroyo's party in the US.

"The group took over one of the restaurant's private rooms and dined on lobster, steak and fine wines, at the conclusion of the meal, an unidentified woman opened a hatchbag stuffed with cash, counted out bills and paid the $15,000 tab—which included a generous tip," added the article posted on the Washington Post's gossip columns and blog site yesterday.

It said: "Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to the White House on July 31 didn't draw much attention, and few dinner in Washington than night get nary a mention. And that's how it might have stayed, at least for a concerned-ed meal in New York City.

"Arroyo is under fire in her native country for a $20,000 meal at Manhattan's Le Cirque on Aug. 2, which included caviar and several bottles of champagne. The dinner, first reported in the New York Post, has Arroyo's critics comparing her to the extravagant Imelda Marcos."

Meanwhile, Mr Arroyo again landed in the New York Post in a follow-up story on the $20,000 dinner in the chic Le Cirque, one of the top-till restaurants in the United States.

"The little song about the $20,000 dinner Philippines President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo enjoyed last month at Le Cirque has blown up into a political firestorm in her homeland, where memories of Imelda Marcos' shoe collection are still fresh," said the short item dated 6 Aug. 13.

The New York Post also quoted Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay as saying the dinner for 23 people could have fed "almost 3,000 hungry families with three square meals."

The actual tab of Ms Arroyo's entourage has yet to be revealed.

Malacañang has said the meal was just a "simple dinner" and that no public funds were spent. Press Secretary Cerge Remonde also blasted the media for playing up the controversy.

Akbayan party-list Representative Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel and Rizal Hontiveros have asked the Ombudsman to investigate whether public funds were used to pay for the dinner, and whether the President or her entourage violated ethical standards for government officials.

Assuming that no public funds were used, the two lawmakers asked that further investigation should be conducted on whether Lexjet Rep. Mattlit Romualdez or his brother's "treat" for the President falls under "indirect bribery" under the Revised Penal Code, or Republic Act No. 65 penalizing public officials from receiving gifts. PD 46, Belle said, also prohibits the holding of parties in honor of an official or his or her immediate relatives.

Hontiveros also asserted that if Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez does not act on their letter-complaint, they could add this as the offenses against Gutierrez in an impeachment case filed against her by March.

Malcolm Mamaltiral, lawyer of the President, also took the media to task for reporting on the story.

NP, NPC, Lakas-Kampi talk coalition informally

From page A1

general of the Lakas-Kampi Christian Muslim Democrats added that the party's shelter of possible coalition partners would even become longer since it was open to accepting "frenemies," people pretending to be friends but are actually enemies, or to opposite, those pretending to be enemies but who are really friends.

As the days and days from yesterday Velasco said party officials would be holding regional consultations at the end of the month to know the presidential bets of its members. Named to the shortlist earlier were Vice President Noli de Castro, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro and Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

"The list is getting longer since it's now an open list because of the regional consultations. We're not saying these are our only choices. Otherwise, it will not be a consultation," he said.

He added that the party would be open to accepting even those whose affiliations at the moment appear to run counter to the administration.

"In all political systems, there are people like that, which is why the Webster dictionary came up with a new word to describe them: frenemy," he added.

Velasco said Villar had been "seriously sensing" members of the administration party for two reasons: either to succeed him a condition with them for the 2010 elections or to recruit them for the Nacionalista Party.

He said the talks with Villar had been going on for some time, and that the senator wanted to benefit from the administration party's nationwide network.

Asked to comment on a statement attributed to Iloilo Francis Escudero, a possible NPC standard bearer, that he would not run as an administration candidate, Velasco said the party decision was a separate matter.

"If the party says we have a coalition with Lakas Kampi and they want you to run, what will you say? You are bound by party rules. Or else you leave the party," he said.

NPC spokesperson and Misamis Occ. Rep. Ilce Garchitorena, speaking in the same forum, said they were open to a coalition with the administration party, but said it would not want to change its presidential and vice presidential candidates.

"If ever we join a coalition, we would go back to the basic premise that the NPC would have a president, vice president and senatorial slate. They would have to sponsor within those premises," Garchitorena said.

He also stressed that the NPC has yet to choose between Escudero and Legarda for its standard bearer.

Party members are progressive thinkers who believe they can support the administration's projects or policies, Garchitorena said.

Cory buried martial law, says US think tank

From page A1

against which Aquino crusaded.

"Another outcome-changer for the next term lies in the way the new US administration has turned its attention recently to the Philippines, with Ms Arroyo finally able to meet with then-US Vice President Barack Obama ... after some botched attempts to do so," it said.

"Stationed US political moneymen believe this is a good sign she will leave office peacefully in 2010."

Foreign policy experts say any visit with a US president could not have been cleared without assurances that it would not turn out to be a diplomatic blunder, latest according to Global Source.

CIA chief's visit

"Oddly enough, after a lightning visit of the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) chief to Manila around mid-July, bomb blasts and bombing attempts resumed to key the provinces for a while to resurface in the country suddenly declined in frequency," it said.

Prior to Aquino's death and Ms Arroyo's meeting with Obama, Filipinos "wished unanimously" for their moment when she would say goodbye during her State of the Nation Address (Sona), Global Source said.

It noted that Two pair Marcos Presidents—deposed herself and Fidel V. Ramos—had some version of farewell word their last major speech.

But it observed that all Ms Arroyo said in her Sona was: "At the end of this speech I shall step down from this stage, but not from the presidency. My term does not end until noon next year."

"It was an obvious jab at activist and political enemies who had been goading her to resign forcibly that she would relinquish power to an elected successor in 2010," Global Source said.

"We believe, though, that the debate on whether or not this constitutes indirectness in impending upheaval in the political system has increasingly become irrelevant..." it said.

Horse race

Global Source said the ruling party would have to find other ways to keep itself politically relevant once it has passed the 2010 elections, which, it said, were now certain to happen.

In an earlier report, Global Source likened the search for opinion to a horse race, with the current leadership betting on a preferred horse and watching others, while the chosen one's full of the track.

As terms have turned out, the race is now down to the last few horses, it said.

The first of the options is a post-2010 elections Cha-cha (Charter change). "Pundits said that the Puris formula where, using administration machinery the President runs for a congressional seat in her hometown while her allies continue to push for constitutional change that allows her to become prime minister," Global Source said.

It added: "This option not only is from similar obstacles as a pre-2010 Cha-cha but also requires finding a loyal candidate who can win as president yet is willing to serve as a constitutional one. With the transactional nature of Philippine politics, threatening the top-most echelon of the highest office of the land in the hands of another ambitious politician can easily undermine the strategy for the incumbent."

Potentially messy

The second option cited is failure of elections where no one is proclaimed president and which will possibly allow the incumbent to stay on.

Said Global Source: "Though seemingly innocuous, the situation is potentially messy.

"While it is legal for the sitting still in power to pursue their plans, more permanent solutions closely guided by the country's main law and acceptable to the people and the international community, especially the US, eventually has to be presented. That apparently calls for an election of a qualified president.

"Otherwise, the power vacuum could lead to political unbalance and public unrest."

Global Source also said the administration could simply support a second number of powers allowing Ms Arroyo to retire gracefully from office.

"This would also enable her to still leave an acceptable legacy. Realistically, however, this would involve heavy horse trading with those running in the presidential campaign to protect her from prosecution," it said.

Political observers eagerly look to Nov. 30, the last day for the filing of candidacies.

"This date will also reveal the plans of the ... President—if she will run for Congress or not," Global Source said. "If country presidency, the question would be, from our point of view, another horse out of the running."

4 at most

With May 2010 fast approaching, the field of presidential candidates has begun to increase Global Source said.

It said that by elimination, the field would be left with four serious candidates at most—Vice President Noli de Castro of the administration, Senate President Manuel Villar of the Nacionalista Party, Manuel "Mar" Roxas of the Liberal Party and Francis "Chiz" Escudero of the Nacionalista People's Coalition (NPC).

Of the four, it said, Villar and Roxas seemed most acceptable to the business community.

"Mr. Villar, a former Senate President and House Speaker, has been presented as a self-made billionaire who rose from rags to riches by selling affordable housing, a true-to-life story that has struck a chord with many Filipinos," Global Source said.

"His ratings have generally shown resilience to the well-orchestrated malfeasance charges leveled against him by rivals in the Senate, demonstrating his political steadfastness. He still figures as to some the top of some presidential surveys," it said.

Global Source noted that Roxas, a Wharton-educated former investment banker whose stint as trade secretary allowed him to gain national mass appeal, had lately shot up in the rankings, "thanks to latest dogging with media's much publicized engagement to a popular broadcast celebrity (Karina Sanchez)."

Roxas comes from a landed clan and boasts a political pedigree, being a grandson of former Philippine President Manuel Roxas.

Young Turk

Global Source said that while it was "low cost" of Escudero's "financial muscle," it believed that he would be "another placeholder candidate."

It added: "Seen as a young Turk in Philippine politics, his presidential campaign will highly depend on whether or not he gets financial backing.

"His party, the NPC, is divided into two camps, one of which backs Senate President Villar and is aligned with the administration [the faction of former Sinsuat assistant and business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco]. ...

"He has built a name as an opposition stalwart with regard claims of vote-buying [Mr. Joseph] Estrada's followers and will hence find it difficult campaigning with a pro-administration patron. Some are convinced he will eventually withdraw, but we see more positive he stands some chance of managing the conflict and coming to the race."

Enigma

Global Source said the administration's two candidates were De Castro.

But it said he remained an "enigma," being "a reluctant candidate who has kept his independence mostly avoid today."

"He has never displayed any strong yearning for power, though his popularity as a television news anchor easily catapulted him to various areas of authority from the Senate to the vice presidency."

Unease

Global Source said there was "unease" in the ruling party over De Castro's "limited stature" given his "affiliation" with Villar and the opposition. "This has triggered unease from the administration block for fortunes of supposed negative coverage of political events by tied television station."

It said the ruling party was "equally" uneasy over De Castro's "ability and fortitude to run a government and protect the President's interests."

Nevertheless, Global Source said, De Castro still ranked high in the polls, in contrast to other administration aspirants who could not garner more than 5 percent of the popular vote.

"This keeps his never abandoning the President in the middle of numerous scandals, making him the least vulnerable in the failed loss of death endorsement. It is why the lack of ambition and seemingly pliable nature makes him the perfect candidate for the ruling party," it said.

Ex-envoy to US confirms GMA plan to impose military rule

From page A1

tary view of that crappy place to peddle officials who may in the future be asked to advance a Palace agenda that is contrary to the national interest.

It was in 2005 during the "Hello Garci" controversy that the then Speaker of the House, Jose de Venecia, came to Washington. He informed that the Palace had empowered him to ask if we could defend for them the resignation of the rest of Subaru corps.

[W]hen the privilege of the envoy is misplaced, a person can be arrested and detained without charges.]

Taken aback

Taken aback, I could only ask why. The Speaker responded that it was to be used against certain members of the political opposition.

As I contemplated the circumstances, the question was repeated. I replied in essence that what our people needed was good governance, and not a continuation of our democracy. I added that given our being the first republic in Asia, the solution could result in our becoming a failed state.

With apologies, I expressed as succinctly as I could that the plan was too debatable, and that we would need defined it.

Late that evening, I dutifully reported what had transpired to Foreign Secretary Alberto G. Romulo, who looked favorably on not leaving (after a close one) fly in position.

Emergency rule

Several days after the Speaker's return to Manila, I received a call from him. He said he was overturning my fears the Palace to advise that there had been a change of plan and that the proposed to spread the writ of habeas corpus was no longer operative.

It was obvious to us that while the specific proposal had even under consideration, there were officials in our government who strongly opposed it.

Some weeks later, the Speaker called me once more from the Philippines to tell me that he could source with photo. My response was that there was probably no such thing in Washington.

Forceful stand vs media

He then proceeded to ask if we could imagine the declaration of emergency rule. To my non-rhetorical query on why we were interesting to do this, he answered that the government was preparing to take a forceful stand against the mainstream media.

I replied, without hesitation, that such a position against the South Korea would bring upon us the condemnation of the international community. That, I said, was also indefensible, and would not be supported.

Subsequently, the Philippine press began to publish articles on hypothetical situations featured by the Palace regarding threats to national security, at the same time providing emergency rule as a constitutional means to address the threats.

With this apparent propaganda, we knew with some certainty that the end of this speech I shall step down from this stage, but not from the presidency. My term does not end until next year."

"It was an obvious jab at activist and political enemies who had been goading her to resign forcibly that she would relinquish power to an elected successor in 2010," Global Source said.

"We believe, though, that the debate on whether or not this constitutes indirectness in impending upheaval in the political system has increasingly become irrelevant..." it said.

Horse race

Global Source said the ruling party would have to find other ways to keep itself politically relevant once it has passed the 2010 elections, which, it said, were now certain to happen.

In an earlier report, Global Source likened the search for opinion to a horse race, with the current leadership betting on a preferred horse and watching others, while the chosen one's full of the track.

As terms have turned out, the race is now down to the last few horses, it said.

The first of the options is a post-2010 elections Cha-cha (Charter change). "Pundits said that the Puris formula where, using administration machinery the President runs for a congressional seat in her hometown while her allies continue to push for constitutional change that allows her to become prime minister," Global Source said.

It added: "This option not only is from similar obstacles as a pre-2010 Cha-cha but also requires finding a loyal candidate who can win as president yet is willing to serve as a constitutional one. With the transactional nature of Philippine politics, threatening the top-most echelon of the highest office of the land in the hands of another ambitious politician can easily undermine the strategy for the incumbent."

Potentially messy

The second option cited is failure of elections where no one is proclaimed president and which will possibly allow the incumbent to stay on.

Said Global Source: "Though seemingly innocuous, the situation is potentially messy.

"While it is legal for the sitting still in power to pursue their plans, more permanent solutions closely guided by the country's main law and acceptable to the people and the international community, especially the US, eventually has to be presented. That apparently calls for an election of a qualified president.

"Otherwise, the power vacuum could lead to political unbalance and public unrest."

Global Source also said the administration could simply support a second number of powers allowing Ms Arroyo to retire gracefully from office.

"This would also enable her to still leave an acceptable legacy. Realistically, however, this would involve heavy horse trading with those running in the presidential campaign to protect her from prosecution," it said.

Political observers eagerly look to Nov. 30, the last day for the filing of candidacies.

"This date will also reveal the plans of the ... President—if she will run for Congress or not," Global Source said. "If country presidency, the question would be, from our point of view, another horse out of the running."

4 at most

With May 2010 fast approaching, the field of presidential candidates has begun to increase Global Source said.

It said that by elimination, the field would be left with four serious candidates at most—Vice President Noli de Castro of the administration, Senate President Manuel Villar of the Nacionalista Party, Manuel "Mar" Roxas of the Liberal Party and Francis "Chiz" Escudero of the Nacionalista People's Coalition (NPC).

Of the four, it said, Villar and Roxas seemed most acceptable to the business community.

"Mr. Villar, a former Senate President and House Speaker, has been presented as a self-made billionaire who rose from rags to riches by selling affordable housing, a true-to-life story that has struck a chord with many Filipinos," Global Source said.

"His ratings have generally shown resilience to the well-orchestrated malfeasance charges leveled against him by rivals in the Senate, demonstrating his political steadfastness. He still figures as to some the top of some presidential surveys," it said.

Global Source noted that Roxas, a Wharton-educated former investment banker whose stint as trade secretary allowed him to gain national mass appeal, had lately shot up in the rankings, "thanks to latest dogging with media's much publicized engagement to a popular broadcast celebrity (Karina Sanchez)."

Roxas comes from a landed clan and boasts a political pedigree, being a grandson of former Philippine President Manuel Roxas.

Young Turk

Global Source said that while it was "low cost" of Escudero's "financial muscle," it believed that he would be "another placeholder candidate."

It added: "Seen as a young Turk in Philippine politics, his presidential campaign will highly depend on whether or not he gets financial backing.

"His party, the NPC, is divided into two camps, one of which backs Senate President Villar and is aligned with the administration [the faction of former Sinsuat assistant and business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco]. ...

"He has built a name as an opposition stalwart with regard claims of vote-buying [Mr. Joseph] Estrada's followers and will hence find it difficult campaigning with a pro-administration patron. Some are convinced he will eventually withdraw, but we see more positive he stands some chance of managing the conflict and coming to the race."

Enigma

Global Source said the administration's two candidates were De Castro.

But it said he remained an "enigma," being "a reluctant candidate who has kept his independence mostly avoid today."

"He has never displayed any strong yearning for power, though his popularity as a television news anchor easily catapulted him to various areas of authority from the Senate to the vice presidency."

Unease

Global Source said there was "unease" in the ruling party over De Castro's "limited stature" given his "affiliation" with Villar and the opposition. "This has triggered unease from the administration block for fortunes of supposed negative coverage of political events by tied television station."

It said the ruling party was "equally" uneasy over De Castro's "ability and fortitude to run a government and protect the President's interests."

Nevertheless, Global Source said, De Castro still ranked high in the polls, in contrast to other administration aspirants who could not garner more than 5 percent of the popular vote.

"This keeps his never abandoning the President in the middle of numerous scandals, making him the least vulnerable in the failed loss of death endorsement. It is why the lack of ambition and seemingly pliable nature makes him the perfect candidate for the ruling party," it said.

WHAT WENT BEFORE

ON JULY 9, IMMIGRATION BEE Jose de Venecia told the Rotary Club of Manila that President Macapagal-Arroyo could declare martial law should the campaign for Charter change fail.

"If they are unable to get the three-fourths vote necessary to amend the Constitution, their — fallback position is to declare martial law," he told an audience that included Ambassador of Germany Italy Indonesia, Thailand, India and Pakistan.

De Venecia, a close Arroyo ally until he was removed as Speaker of the House in a Palace-backed coup last year, said earlier told business executives and reporters that Ms Arroyo came close to declaring martial law during the November 2004 siege of Peninsula Manila led by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, and that he was asked by Mala. calling it in the time to seek US support.

He later corrected himself and said the plan to impose martial law was broached in 2005 at the height of the national crisis triggered by the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal.

Intimate knowledge

On July 22, speaking before the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, former Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz backed De Venecia's statements.

"What I can say is that (a friend), [Speaker Jo Venecia] has intimate knowledge of those events," Cruz said, adding that he had also heard former Ambassador to the United States Albert del Rosario narrate on TV a similar version of events taking place "in the last quarter of 2005."

De Venecia and Cruz cited similarities between the current national situation and that in 1972. Cruz noted that Ferdinand Marcos was also wearing the end of his term when he declared martial law; while De Venecia noted that Marcos used as the escalation of hostilities and a failure of the 1969 elections could trigger a martial law declaration.

Early last month, hundreds protested Subic and the crisis of Cotabato and Ilocos, killing a number of eight people, including a year-old boy, and injuring scores of others.

Calibrated preemptive response

The "Hello Garci" controversy spawned not only the biggest challenge to the legitimacy of the Arroyo administration but also three measures that led to fears of a second martial law era.

On June 6, 2005, in order to preempt an alleged opposition plot, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye played to reporters two CDs of purported taped conversations between Ms Arroyo and then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano on the rigging of the results of the May 2004 presidential polls.

Ms Arroyo subsequently apologized to the nation on TV, saying she was the woman talking to an election official whose she did not name. But she denied attempting to rig the election results, saying she was only instructed to protect her votes in light of the slow counting.

The revelation of the tapes led to Congress hearings and street protests. On Sept. 21, 2005, incidentally also the 33rd anniversary of the declaration of martial law, Malacañang announced a "calibrated preemptive response (CPR) in lieu of maximum tolerance" in dealing with protests without permits.

The announcement was made amid reports of purported destabilization attempts.

EO 464

A week later, Ms Arroyo issued Executive Order No. 464 barring government officials and military officials from testifying at Congress hearings without her consent.

It drew overwhelming opposition even from her allies in Congress.

Lawmakers said EO 464 could be part of the administration's push for a unicameral Congress, or a means to maintain the loyalty of the military and the Cabinet to ensure the country's political survival.

The opposition declared it a manifestation of her "paranoia."

Opposition and administration senators, along with other groups, questioned EO 464's legality to the Supreme Court.

In January 2006, the five House committees investigating the "Hello Garci" controversy wrapped up work without resolving the issue. Pantaleon Cruz Pangalangan Bayo. Rufus Rodriguez EO 464 for the fullest of the House to get to the bottom of the case.

Presidential Proclamation 1017

On Feb. 24, 2006, during the week commemorating the 20th anniversary of Edsa I, the lawyers signed Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 declaring a state of emergency to "prevent or suppress all forms of lawless violence as well as any act of rebellion" and directing the Armed Forces of the Philippines "to prevent and suppress acts of lawless violence."

The proclamation resulted from the military's discovery of an alleged plot by key officers to join protest marches on that day and break away from the chain of command.

On that day, University of the Philippines Prof. Randy David was picked up at a march marking the anniversary of the Edsa People Power Revolution.

Past midnight a day later, police raided the office of Tha Daily Tribune, a newspaper critical of the Arroyo administration, and seized editorial materials.

In a bold warning, the Philippine National Police said it would take over any media organization that would not follow standards set by the government."

A number of protesters were arrested in the seven days that PP 1017 was in effect.

Supreme Court moves

On April 20, 2006, the Supreme Court, voting 14-0, shot down EO 464, that it declared unconstitutional. Six justices right to bar executive officials from appearing during the question hour in both chambers of Congress. Only Senate President Franklin Drilon voted to uphold the order only in March 2006.)

Five days later, the high court declared PP 1017 unconstitutionally by a vote of 13-0.

On May 3, 2006, it declared unconstitutional the arrest of protesters, the forcible breakup of rallies and the raid on the Tribune carried out in accordance with PP 1017.

Voting 13-0, the high court upheld the President's power to declare a state of emergency but ruled as illegal a clause in PP 1017 giving herself an illegal power to issue decrees.

The high court annulled the proclamation, saying it evoked shades of Marcos' PP 1081 which imposed martial law in 1972. (Kats Pedroso and Allan Horaria, Inquirer Research)

Source: Inquirer Archives

HOW IT CAN BE TOLD For the first time, Alberto del Rosario, former Philippine envoy to the United States, reveals that the country in 2005 was on the brink of another Martialan era. INQUIRER PHOTO

Rosario was confirmed the Order of Sikatuna, with the rank of Aide, by President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004. He received the Edsa II Veterans Award in 2007.

He graduated from New York University with a degree in economics and has held positions in the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Smart Communications, Metro Pacific Corp., Meralco Manufacturing Co. and Key Realty Development Corp.

He has also been involved with the Philippine Canine Society, Manufacturers Association of the Philippines and American Chamber of Commerce.)

Miriam backs Villar; Recto keeps options open

From page A1

ity as a manifestation of my debt of gratitude to him," she said.

She revealed that Villar helped bankroll her campaign when she ran for president in 1992 under the People's Reform Party (PRP), which she founded. She pointed out her loss in Pilot Sinsuia in that race but later withdrew the case.

'Gave me a lot of money'

"He gave me a lot...a rebuilt lot of money when I didn't even know him. We really needed a shot in the arm at the time when we completely had no funds. So he was able to give me a running start," she said.

Santiago was elected senator in 1995 and in 2004. She lost yet to make up her mind whether to seek another term in 2010, but said she would support Villar's presidential candidacy.

"Well, if President Arroyo is not running—and looks like she cannot run, anymore under any proposal. Chanter change because there's simply no time left—then it [reelection bid] will likely be with Senator Villar's ticket," she said.

Santiago told reporters that there was a big chance that Recto would join Villar's 2010 slate since they are both members of the Nacionalista Club formed by Sen. Jinkoy Estrada.

Recto keeps options open

"[Former] Senator Recto is definite on running, he told me so. It might be a question of what party. He will be obliged to run with the administration party," she said.

But she quickly added that "maybe for the sake of definition, [there's an] indication that he will run under Villar's ticket."

"I don't know a party yet. I will consult [Villar] and my friends," Recto said when asked by phone if he would join other political parties not allied with the administration.

Opposition open

Recto ran for senator as guest candidate of the administration Team Unity ticket in 2007, but lost.

Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada, a reelectionist, said he would gladly run with Recto under the Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) founded by his father, former President Joseph Estrada.

"Sir, I will welcome him," Senator Estrada told the Inquirer after the Senate adjourned its session yesterday.

Explaining his decision to quit his post as nonconvention planning secretary and director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), Recto said: "You can't run the office and run for the Senate] at the same time."

It would be a "disservice to both" if he would use the position as a boost to his chances in the 2010 polls, he said.

"Neda is a full-time work. It's unfair for the institution, unfair for the people [if he will continue building on to the post]," he said.

Recto no loss at all to Palace, says Ermita; more to leave Cabinet

From page A1

Where he can again and did not make it, he sets taken to Villar [Santos] in Lubao. There's no reason [he'll be going to stay either party because he is a Lubao man, Lubao Bangal [MP] is the strongest party right now] the executive secretary said.

No party affiliation

Asked whether his resignation showed cracks in the administration party, Recto yesterday said he was not a member of any party.

Recto said he was an adopted candidate of Lubao in the 2007 senatorial elections.

Asked if he would join the administration or opposition party, Recto said: I will be hard to say these days who move from which camp although he admitted that he had received many offers to join a slate.

He said running as an independent was a possibility.

Recto confirmed that he was seeking to return to the Senate in 2010 but was not discounting the possibility of running for governorship.

But he added that he was exploring "all opportunities," including a stint in the House of Representatives.

Recto said his decision to resign his Cabinet post violated the rules of political campaigns.

Deprived of ballhorn

"It will deprive me of the soapbox which will make me visible and the ballhorn which will allow me to be heard," Recto said.

He said "the position, then and now, is one can run an office and he an office at the same time. That was the position in other offices, but I believe not in Neda."

He said he was leaving as of his post because he felt that being Neda chief was a full-time job which he could not give justice to if he was preparing for an election campaign.

He said he felt he had to resign because "Neda does not need a leader who is also a job applicant."

Regulate oil industry

Even then, Recto had been vocal about headline-grabbing issues unlike his predecessors in Neda, even getting into a tiff with Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes over the appropriate pricing of fuel.

Recto said monitoring fuel prices and quashing abuse discrepancies between pump prices and his computations fuel become "a personal adversary."

He said that if he were again a senator, among the bills he would file would be one about regulating the oil industry.

Battle goes on

Asked if his resignation was partly due to the administration's lack of full support for his opposition to the Lubbat dam project, Recto said: "You were some battles, you lose some battles, but the battle goes on."

As Neda chief, Recto said the Lubbat dam project was done in "haste" and "underhanded manner" the size described as "illegal and immoral" a take-or-pay provision between would-be dam operator Sur. Miguel Belt Water Co. and regulator Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

Recto said he submitted his resignation letter a month ago, but he and Ms. Arroyo got to talk about it only on Tuesday morning when she accepted his decision.

Villar's reelection

He also said that his political plans would not affect those of his wife, Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos. "What I know is that she is in early reelection, but I cannot speak for her," he said. "You have to take that [question] up with her."

Recto conceded that his being the main sponsor of the reform value-added tax (RVAT) law was "one of many reasons" he failed to get endorsed in the Senate in 2007.

The RVAT law, which took effect in 2006, raised the tax rate to 11 percent from 10 percent and expanded the coverage to include such services as electricity and uncooked air travel.

He said that if he were still in the Senate, he would do it again.

Necessary measure

"The RVAT law was a necessary measure," Recto said. "Without it, the Philippines would be in financial chaos, especially with the global problems that we have."

Recto said Ms. Santos would be suing Ms. Arroyo separately on "murder" of secretaries from the Cabinet in the run up to the May 2010 elections.

The Commission on Elections has set the filing of certificates of candidacy for late November.

Speaker: All infomercials same banana

From page A1

whose staff distributed press materials alleging that Nograles was a homosexual, who had ties to Fernando's nonexistent grand harem.

Villaroya could not connect with the contents of his press kit, the House denied making the accusations about Nograles' sexual orientation.

This did not stop Nograles from coming out with a retort in a text message to reporters: "Sana lady mare pay [that I will ever hope or be."

Miriam's probe

Nograles gave his email to the TV info ad Cabinet secretaries two days before Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, chair of the Senate economic affairs committee, begins a public hearing on the infomercials of Malacañang officials.

Infomercials serve their purpose by telling the public about various government activities that traditional media do not pick up, according to Nograles.

"It has become necessary considering that in our present setup, there is a tendency to complain all the time] every and let's point the good news. It's a way of balancing out things and level-ing the playing field," he said.

Without infomercials, Nograles said the public might think the government was not doing something good for the country.

"If all we did were bad things, how come the country has not sunk up to now?" he said.

Do Castro et al.

Santiago has invited Vice President Noli de Castro, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, Finance Secretary Margarita Teves, Labor Undersecretary Gilberto Teodoro to the hearing.

Also invited were Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, Agriculture Secretary Nonoy Piñol, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Presidential Anti-Poverty Commission Secretary Esperanza Cabral, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Administrator Jennifer Manalo, Philippine Information Agency Director Harold Clemente, Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal, Tourism Undersecretary Ricardo Jalandoni, Bases Conversion Development Authority Chair Felicito Payumo, Philippine Economic Zone Authority Director Lilia Bautista and Metropolitan Waterworks Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

The officials have expressed interest in running for president, senator or congressman in 2010.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay has also been invited because he, like the Cabinet officials, has used public funds to produce and run his infomercials.

Santiago said she would subpoena those who would fail to appear in tomorrow's hearing.

She said she would ask the officials to justify the public funding for the infomercials that she claimed were nothing but boob tools to jump-start their 2010 election campaigns in violation of the constitutional ban against early campaigning.

Santiago has pursued a similar case against her colleagues who have flooded the media with political ads.

Dirty tricks

In the House, Fernandez was appalled at the dirty tricks employed by his political foes. "I didn't think they could bring the issue down to this level. Mahirap[ito ang Speaker]," he said.

Fernandez said he resorted to file a libel suit against Bellaores but his decision to hold him he would not have to pass unless Bellaores signed the paper.

In an interview with reporters, Bellaores, the legal counsel of Sen. Loren Legarda, maintained that answering Fernandez was a non-existent libel by Nograles.

Bellaores said Nograles had no choice but to implement the DBET order when he received it on May 11 from only a temporary restraining order from the Supreme Court could have stopped its implementation.

But Nograles said the filing of the ethics case was premature and baseless since the DBET had yet to issue a writ of execution.

"The case is also under appeal with the Supreme Court. This is a very sensitive issue and the House has to be very cautious because we don't want to end up implementing something that can still be reversed by the Supreme Court. It is better to wait for the Supreme Court before taking any action on Representative Fernandez's case," the Speaker said.

The DBET decision arose from a complaint of a resident of San Fernando, Laguna, that Fernandez was not a resident of the first district [a candidacy should be a resident of the district for at least a year] and that he had failed to declare in the 2007 statement of assets in his certificate of candidacy filed in 1998, 2001 and 2004.

The complaint was filed by Jesus Vivares.

Fernandez claimed that the complaint was instigated by the losing candidates in the district.—*Sarah Joaquin, with Kimberly Bay Ochoa and Inquirer of Laguna. With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

Erap tops SWS survey

From page A1

"What can I do if the opposition names some leaders a numbers one/dabest?" he said.

He said he would announce his decision "soon" whether he will run for president in mid-September or late next month.

Estrada, whose 40-year term that started in mid-1998 was cut short when he was ousted in 2001, has said he is qualified to run for office despite the 6-year, his qualification to run again would have to be settled by the Supreme Court.

Estrada spent six years in jail while standing trial for plunder, but was pardoned in September 2007 by the Sandiganbayan and pardoned by President Macapagal-Arroyo the following month.

Villaluerta for Escudero

Sa Sorsogon City, a staunch supporter of his Arroyo and former head of her political party, said he would support Escudero should he run for president.

Camarines Sur Rep. Luis R. Villafuerte in yesterday said that he chose Escudero, also a Nacionalista, for his qualities as a young and intelligent leader with a vision.

"I am inclined to support Chiz Escudero [in his bid] for the presidency," Villafuerte said.

Villafuerte resigned from his post as presidente of the Kabalikat ng Maunlarang Pilipino (Kampi) a week before the merger of Kampi and Lakas-CMD in May.

Escudero has not declared categorically that he will run for president in 2010, but said he would decide after he turned 40 this year.

While his family-ng Manang Pilipino (PMP) is just one of the opposition groups under the United Opposition (UNO), Escudero acknowledged as the leader of the opposition.

Escudero-Legarda tandem

Escudero said the political partnership UNO-mean] him to choose Legarda as vice presidential candidate.

"I have nothing to do with that," he said, referring to reports that the Nacionalista Party-Pi's Coalition (NPC) would field ex-Estrada-Legarda tandem next year.

Escudero, who was elected in January 2001 on allegations of graft, said UNO could not preserve the NPC if it wished to have an Escudero-Legarda tandem.

Villafuerte said that he had disaffiliated himself from any political party and that he would run as independent in the 2010 elections. He said he did not need a party to win.

He said Ms Arroyo, whom he had consulted on political issues, sentimental and recognized his position.

Meeting with Dunding

Asked if his support for Escudero signaled his intentions to join the NPC of business tycoon Eduardo "Dunding" Cojuangco Jr., Villafuerte answered "no."

A reporter prodded him to confirm or deny Inquirer Secretary Rosalinda Pineda's claim that he had already joined the NPC, Villafuerte said: "Why is he [Pineda] deciding for me?"

He nevertheless confirmed that he had met with Cojuangco, 80th Inquirer Southern Luzon

US warship home to 300 Fil-American sailors

From page A1

Manila in 13 years, according to Lt. Cmdr. Bill Urban, the warship's spokesperson.

Sailors and six marine specialists hosted Monica, who was presented flowers and cards by members of the crew. Many of the Filipino-American crew members who were simply happy to be back on their native soil and be of some service to fellow Filipinos.

Tasked with managing the ship's supplies, particularly aircraft spare parts, Simon said he might still find himself busy onboard the ship during much of its stay in Manila.

"But I would find time to go out and eat at the thrill of Asia [MOA]," Simon told the Inquirer with a chuckle as he assisted a group of reporters who were given a three-hour tour of the mammoth vessel.

Wednesday's guests were invited to the ship by water taxis that picked up passengers from a platform at the MOA area. The trip to the ship took about 30 minutes.

City at sea

Serving as tour guide, Urban walked visitors through the ship's long corridors, the bridge, the hangar bay and the sprawling flight deck. From there, other ships and waterfront dotting Manila Bay's expanse surface looked puny.

Based in "ready at sea," the ship has its own television station, aircraft repair hubs, facilities for laundry, medical and dental services, gyms and a barber shop.

Simon said Filipinos like him who joined the US Navy hardly encountered problems when they started working in the US military. "You know for me as Filipinos, we can always easily adapt to a different culture," he said.

"But we don't forget our heritage," Simon added.

During their spare time, usually on Fridays, he and fellow Filipinos gather for karaoke nights at the mess deck [or like regular, land-based Filipinos watch] on set on a gizmick.

"[But] we do miss rice!" he quipped. "Here, we are usually served mashed potatoes."

Sad news from home

Another Fil-Am crew member, Senior Chief Archie Joaquin, couldn't help but feel nostalgic as he shared how he felt about the recent passing of former President Corazon Aquino.

The George Washington was then docked in Yokosuka, Japan, when the sad news reached Joaquin.

"She is really a big loss to our country. I missed my wife so [in Manila Cadet-dral] and say our prayers," said the sailor, who was a college student when he joined the 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution that Aquino inspired.

Of the more than 5,000 sailors manning the ship, 24 percent have either blood relatives or friends in the Philippines, according to Urban. At least 3 percent are Filipino-American.

Meanwhile, the visiting American sailors have been reminded to observe "proper conduct" during their stay in Manila" that could make them liable under the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement, 1998. Commission Executive Director Edilberto Adan said yesterday.

"There'll be some limited liberty and it's good for our western industry and for our people to see the foreigners who went in parades of the Philippine hospitality. We should welcome that," Adan said reporters.

Strict orders

"But they're under strict orders not to go to places where they could be in trouble. So we advised them to stay in where those sailors who are going down to make sure that they behave and respect local customs and tradition and respect Filipino hospitality," he stressed.

Adan said foreign troops are welcome to enjoy tourist establishments in the city "when behave, respect our laws and there are no abuses or that should not discriminate against any particular nationality just because they belong to unlicensed service of a foreign country."

US Ambassador to Manila Kristie Kenney considered the ship's visit as "a great opportunity to strengthen our military-to-military partnership [and] show our appreciation for the consummate we serve."

"I'm proud of our dedicated men and women in uniform who are so excited to share this beautiful country," Kenney added.

The American crew will join Philippine Navy counterparts in a series of activities, including sporting events and seminars.

They will also provide manpower for civic projects to 16 barangays, troubleshooting activities and improvement of school buildings and facilities for 10-year renewal.

In 2005, a high-profile criminal case involving a US Marine then on shore leave in the country had put the VFA—and RP-US relations—to test.

After a presiding trial, a local court convicted Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith of raping a Filipino woman whom he met and his drove buddies met at a bar in Subic.

Amid protests from groups opposed to the VFA, Smith remained in the US Embassy's custody while the verdict was on appeal.

In March this year, Smith settled free and was quickly whisked out of the country days after the woman issued what amounted to a retraction of the rape charges. With a report from Cynthia D. Balana

ISSN 0116-2042 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER VOL. 29 NO. 240

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/opinion

The horror

THE DECISION OF THE MILITARY JUNTA IN BURMA (Myanmar) to try pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi on patently absurd charges, convict her after a preposterous trial and then imprison on her a consecutive sentence of 18 additional months of house arrest is a shocking, morally monstrous act; expected, indeed scripted—but shocking just the same. The leaders of the brutal regime in Burma, whose continued existence shames the Association of Southeast Asian Nations it belongs to, always get what they want, and yesterday after Byzantine maneuverings, they got what they wanted: a "legal" pretext to keep the true leader of the Burmese nation in continued detention.

EDITORIAL

Even though the trial was conducted and the sentence was read in a courtroom, the entire trial-conviction-sentence-communication procedure was the junta's decision, no mistake about it. Indeed, only moments after the verdict and the initial sentence of five years of hard labor were announced, a Burmese state minister read—in the same courtroom—a statement of commutation from junta leader Than Shwe. In other words, the junta knew what the verdict and sentence would be, since these were exactly what they planned.

Even the commutation was presented as an exercise of clemency and statesmanship, citing the unique stature of Suu Kyi as the daughter of Burma's independence hero, the country's need for "peace and tranquility," and the opportunity for better personal relations. (The details came from a European diplomat present at the sentencing.)

But in fact, it is none of these things. It was clear from the start, and as predicted by many analysts, that the junta would use the absurd case to remove Aung San Suu Kyi from the political scene during a crucial period for Burma. Indeed, the reduced sentence effectively sidelines Suu Kyi from the election the junta has scheduled for next year.

Suu Kyi led the National League for Democracy's campaign in the elections of 1990, which the junta allowed, under her leadership, however, the pro-democracy forces won more than 80 percent of the seats in parliament. Their victory forced the Burmese generals to annul the elections, imprison the winning candidates—and detain Suu Kyi. She has spent 14 of the last 20 years under house arrest.

Next year's election is designed to "civilianize" the Burmese regime's forbidding military face, and to keep the 1990 elections more deeply in the past. Because the junta could not countenance the possibility that Suu Kyi would serve time again as a focal point, a center of gravity, for pro-democracy candidates, it engineered a way to connect Suu Kyi to more time in detention.

The situation is similar to what would have happened in the Philippines in 1985, if the Marcos regime had decided to confine the recently widowed Cory Aquino in her house on Times Street in Quezon City, on whatever flimsy legal pretext, in order to prevent her from campaigning for opposition candidates contesting the regularly rebuilt-and-Kuwata elections of 1986. As it was, Cory Aquino helped the opposition win one-third of the seats in stolen, one of the first victories in the anti-Marcos struggle.

The Burmese junta fears much the same scenario. Despite being forced to keep a low profile, to avoid even the smallest hint of a crowd, so to communicate with the outside world, Aung San Suu Kyi remains her country's conscience, a living reproof to the brutal regime.

Thus, when a somewhat unbalanced American managed to swim across the lake surrounding Suu Kyi's residence and to spend two days there (even though he was asked to leave immediately, he refused to do so, saying he wanted to save Suu Kyi from an alleged assassination plot), the pro-democracy leader found herself promptly charged with violating the terms of her house arrest.

The sentence, in other words, is the junta's cynical insurance policy.

The diplomat present at the sentencing told The New York Times that Than Shwe's statement of commutation was "carefully calibrated to deliver the word that 'I am a reasonable man and I've listened to what the international community said'." More evidence of the horrifying moral vacuum at the center of the Burmese regime. In fact, what both the international community and the people of Burma want is for Aung San Suu Kyi to be finally set free.

Publisher Isaac Nuñez

Editor in Chief Letty Jacinto-Magkilat

Managing Editor Jose Ma. D. Hilvano

Associate Editor Alejandro S. Llamzon

Assistant Editor for Reader Help Susana A. Gatmaitan

Opinion Editor Jimi V. Aguja

News Editor Antonio T. Guanzon Jr. • Chief Copy Desk Supervisor Mark B. Pascua

Chief News City Desk Ruben C. Almadrones

National Editor Philbert R. Bautista Jr.

Senior Desk Editor Jana N. Sambrano Jr.

Editorial Desk Consultant Rosalinda Dondoni

Chief Photographer Edwin Sambrano

Art & Design Director Lynett S. Pallanca

Board Chairman Marixi R. Prieto

President Alexandre Prieto-Romualdez

Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Beatriz R. Mendoza

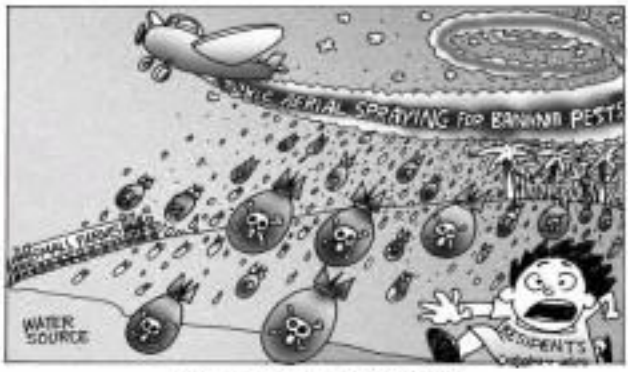
VP for Advertising Felipe R. Guerrero

AVP for Circulation Dante Dante R. Tan

All rights reserved.

Reproduction of any article or picture in whole or in part without written permission from the publisher is prohibited.

Inquirer and Philippine Daily Inquirer are registered with the Philippine Patent Office.



Two modern parables?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA lunged to set hour and a half link for his meeting with his four journalists. But when he sat down in the papal visitation room, he didn't unwrap the old "We was robbed in Cebu" eye drama.

Fernando Poe Jr.'s campaign failed to muster candidates or watchers down to barangay precincts, he candidly admitted. Today, the Machiavellian opposition is distilling lessons from the one-million vote margin in 2004.

"The opposition is cobbling a complete hold unless by 2010," Erap said. "There's still a 10-10 chance the opposition will unite. If that fails, then I will run."

Watch the body language. Gauge the adrenalin and punishing schedule. If you were not born yesterday, you can see the man is running. He doesn't give a fig, whatever "president-fatigued" Manny Villar, Mar Roxas, Chiz Escudero, Loren Legarda, or Jamby Madrigal will whip up between now and the filing of candidacy in October. Erap is running. Period.

But his checkered past simply won't let go, to the confession question showed.

"What lessons did you learn from your ouster?" There was dead silence. It referred to his notorious multiple cohorts and wenches like the P50 million-a-week cutie, in two and a half years. On meeting supporters of the "Tore Wives a Wife the People" had raised into the 5.8 government: Ambigan, Asmodeo, Kokoy, Jinggoy... et bebe.

"I was overconfident," he admitted, "and perhaps, I should have been more selective with friends." He didn't say who. Most have slipped town like Jinnie Imbawa, Jimmy Sin and Lucio Gan Co. Nobody protests.

Erap's brutal: "What record?" he snapped. "My record is unblemished."

Denial unsupported by deeds doesn't hold water. His chief of staff, Apostolic Jacinto, wears about how Erap failed to deliver on his pro-poor programs. "At four in the morning, I'll be the only one sober among Erap's midnight cabinet members," he said.

Dead-on target. "I feel Lupong."

In this press conference, denial also blanketed his answer on "command responsibility" over the 22 Presidential Anti-Organized Crime personnel involved in the Jason Corbito murder. "I have nothing to do with that case. Nine I in this-passport there?" he roared to oneself. "There was no investigation, then," Pandilo Lacson, being PNP chief, would know more.

Estrada declined to answer the question: "What can you say about the P1-million Le Cirque dinners of President Arroyo since in your time you partied like crazy?" That was wine of him, a Star Tribune reporter misfacted. After all, Erap and barkada would outfill Duncan Pentyn at $1,000 shots supplied by Jamie Dichaves.

The legacy of his truncated term could not be compared to Cory Aquino's legacy, Erap insisted. Cory restored a full term and in turn lifts the faithful servants of the populist. Her most immense oil talent wisely: "I was created unconstitutionally" he answered, and then comparing him to the servants who buried his cronies and came to the Manny empty-handed, doesn't hold water. Only a full term will do, he concluded.

• • •

"That's odd," the two nuns murmured. Police stores abroad, on a road in Talisay, Cebu, would store, or something, their cruise to other side of the road.

The nuns bear a home for old women (pero up in the house) why. Crumpled on the roadside was an aged, dirt-caked, scrawny and half-conscious man.

No one helped as called the emergency hotline. The nuns used to determine his name, home, relatives. "Doc stores headed him in a vehicle, then brought him to our home," recalls Sr. Mila Socrates, OSME "We house only women. But this was an emergency."

They bathed the man, treated his bruises, on his back. "We had no men's clothes in our house," explained Sister Mila who is the superior. "In the end, we borrowed his best smelling clothes and put a woman's duster on him. But it was clean as linen."

Wasn't that a 21st century retelling of Luke's parable? A man, left for dead on the wayside, is bypassed by people—until someone "took pity and wrote up in him, bound up his wounds ... set him on his own beast, brought him to an inn and took care of him."

"We know nothing of him," said the nuns called by the nurses. "So, I'll administer conditional baptism. What name shall we give him?"

The nurses, who caught wind her of the telecast on Cory Aquino's funeral, suggested, "Call him Ninoy." "But person seemed to die dying man and began: 'If you have not been baptized, I baptize thee Ninoy in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit ..."

He feared, the oil of extreme unction on Ninoy's eyes, ears, lips, hands ... organs of the senses. So, when other clues failed, they began the ancient prayers of farewell which the Church pronounces over her dying children: "Depart, O Christian soul, out of this sinful world in the name of God ... Let peace come to thee this day and thy abode be in holy thee ..."

The nuns were surprised to hastily hear that day. The nurses gave a coffee for him. Among a pile of donated clothes, the nuns found an old coat, shirt, etc.

"Where the coat yellow?" I asked.

"No," Sister Mila replied. "It was dark blue. But Yoko Ninoy looked good on it."

"The one who showed mercy" proved to be neighbor the lawyer admitted in the Master in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Also many, the yellow ribbon, can sometimes mean: ouster.

E-mail: jmercado@pmail.com

Still, monuments

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

KEEP SNOOPY'S CHEESY WAYS TO CONFESS TO declare Cory Aquino a national hero and name the National Historical Institute to build monuments for her. Rep. Rodolfo Plaza does, too, proposing House Joint Resolution 43 to make it so. The hi-spot, "would ensure the continuity of her legacy of democracy and love of country."

Malacañang is all for it. Additionally, it wants to put Cory alongside Ninoy in the P500 bill. Says Cabinet Secretary Gabriel Claudio: "[It's] a very apt, artistic and symbolic depiction of a partnership steeped not only in marital devotion but a shared devotion to the cause of freedom of the Filipino people."

Blas Ruma proposed changing Edsa to Cory Aquino Avenue before he proposed changing Ninoy Aquino Interior to Benigno Aquino Jr. Avenue. Both changes of heart. About the first, there is.

Several religious groups want Cory to be canonized...something else, Archbishop Oscar Cruz says, could take a long time. The Church is meticulous about these things, he says. The proposal to the Vatican can only be made after three years, and God only knows how long the process would take afterward. But Cruz is all for it. "I think she was a prayerful woman, a very humble lady and a very honest one."

All these are perfectly laudable and most of them are probably harmless. Cory herself was big on sincerity—she indeed her family and those by first when she said they had no problem with anyone, friend or foe, visiting at their mother's wake as long as he or she was sincere, which she doubted some were. The same may be said about these proposals. Where she goes is sincere, it is them. Cory does deserve the pseans. Cory does deserve the monuments.

But whether sincere or not, there's something also deeply disturbing about these gestures. It won't be a problem if they merely complemented the things we ought to do if we truly want to honor Cory's memory—or indeed turn her into a living presence. But in this country these gestures merely—and in the case of Congress and Malacañang are meant to—take the place of the real honors and monuments we ought to bestow on her.

Malacañang wants to honor Cory? Simple. All Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has to do is resign as Cory bugged, or bid, her to do after she was caught talking to Garci. It's well past time, but better late than never. Cory was above all about a will to power. But that power was always meant to be exercised in the service of others. Arroyo's will to power is now and she will show at least that the elections will push through and at least that the counting of votes will not be "Garcinized," indeed, she will show, to paraphrase Claudio, a very apt, artistic, and kinesthetic representation of a partnership with the citizens that is steeped in devotion to duty and a desire to show what real type of belonging to the human race.

Congress wants to honor Cory? Simple. All the congressmen have to do is stop being a Congress of thugs and tell Pompeyo Bragoner, or the next speaker, Miriam Arroyo, to shove the Do Not Arrest list in their knee-holes. All they have to do is restore a last shred of responsibility to an institution they have turned into a pigsty, and return the Jollibee filibustering has routed at them like swill. What is swill to them is food for the hungry and culture for the undercivil. The hungry and undercivil can use the monuments to Cory.

The Church wants to honor Cory? Simple. All the bishops have to do, if they cannot follow Christ who is far too removed from them, is to follow Cory who has just been removed from us. All they have to do is live like Cory, which is to be humble while wielding power, which is to be simple while awash in richness, which is to be truthful in the face of lies and subterfuges. Or put more basically, all they have to do is not say "forthfools cheats anyway," when confronted with Vitello, Garci," nor call on Gloria to resign and deny a later favor or loan did penance for it by running into a lunatic), and never forget that before anyone else, Cory is an upbeat, righteousness and soon-changer-wrongdoing.

The "presidentiables" want to honor Cory? Simple. All they have to do is stop sniffs, as Cory favored this, and let Ninoy lead the charge, whether GMA steps down or not, whether elections push through or not. I like Mar Roxas, but I like Jesse de la Cruz even more. A Senator-like candidate is a shoo-in. A Mike Defensor candidate is not. Spectacles. It diminishes, divisive, misses the soar of People Power that was hatred again last week. The charade of People Power is transformed from Where to Cory and Cory to Ninoy. It is not transferable from Ninoy to Mar. Let Ninoy run as president and he will animate those elections, he will energize those elections, he will electrify those elections. I guarantee it.

We want to honor Cory? Simple. All we have to do is stop doing the wrong things and start doing right. All we have to do is stop living as ghosts, as knights for our enemies of time and lapsing back to interminable apathy, indifference, and uselessly alienated. All we have to do to pay solidarity to Cory did, but with the kind of bravery that does not insist because do everything, only with the kind of bravery that understands God helps only those who help themselves. Cory looked up to heaven, but did what she had to do on earth.

Declaring Cory a national hero and building monuments for her by themselves will not answer the cries for truth and her legacy of democracy and love of country. The only thing that will answer it is we ourselves humanizing it, bringing it to a fullness, kindling it into a raging fire with the standard of our lives. The principle remains the same: The only monuments that last are our deeds of decent and sterling, they are made of flesh and blood. The only monuments that last are not built in space.

They are raised in the heart.

So Pinoy

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

to celebrate Dini Gustilveson Silke Arroyo's birthday there and after much browsing and having ONG finally agreed to a quiet dinner in a simple restaurant, as she wanted to avoid any possible gossip about being it up.

* * *

So many tributes have been showered on President Aquino, many of them based on personal encounters with her. One such tribute during the unveiling of the statue of her late father Ninoy Aquino at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 said the city was something, saying she believed was a plain housewife once, but had to overcome her own shyness when the became president. Other tributes from Cory Aquino revealed that at a point in there up in customs highly emotional moments in the Dr. Bonnie Mo, such as the last birthday of JDV after he lost the presidential race and some days later JDV in a hospital. He died passed away. Gina recalled that Cory was among the very few to show up at their funeral hotel room and she was amazed for JCC's wake and novena. Later Cory brought her to the Pink Sisters for a much needed healing session to recover. Only still, she did encouraged the grieving mother to take up painting lessons. But what Gina treasures most is a special gift from Cory: a little booklet containing her own personal thoughts on suffering as well as significant spiritual passages on it, painstakingly written in her calligraphic penmanship. During one visit to Gina in their difficult times, I saw how this booklet greatly lifted her grieving spirit.

When Cory died, Gina immediately left weekend for the Buenos Aires, where he was attending a parliamentarians' conference, and hopped from airport to airport in three successive for 36 hours, to get here for Cory's wake.

* * *

My formidable sister-in-law, Maria Angelita "Mona" Caedo Olivares, editor in chief of the daily newspaper Tribune and wife of my elder brother Ed Olivares, was recently honored by the French government with a most prestigious award, Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Merite. Mona's last family members and personal friends assembled at his residence in North Forbes, French Ambassador Thierry de Mezis presented the medal, signed by French President Nicholas Sarkozy to the latter's capacity as Grand Master of the National Order of Merit and conferred on the new "Knight" the order's band. Quite modest, it was Mona's unassuming demeanor role in fighting various attempts to curtail the freedoms of media during the Marcos regime and in subsequent administrations, and her being a "longtime friend and admirer of France and French culture" that led to the award.

Mona recalled how she drew inspiration in her journalistic endeavors from the heroes of the French Enlightenment and pledged to continue these efforts. Congratulations, Mona.

* * *

One of my favorite quotations is from socially, the unexplained Catholic visionary devoted to helping troubled marriages. In our time, marriages have become disposable. The number of broken families, single parents and fatherless children is growing. Instead of efforts to save marriages, Bob usually seeks to give couples with problems a final option to either a life of misery or outright separation, open communication, unfaithfulness and the possibility of reconciliation and forgiveness. Bob's most successful intervention, Retrouvaille, will conduct another free in program from Friday evening, Aug. 21, 2009, up to Sunday afternoon, Aug. 23, to the mother of Mary Ignatius Center on Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City. Registration can be made by phone call away: Fr. Dave Dax at 361 0940 to 49, 0511 and 525-0389, or Judy 9089719 and 09 16 493 8396, Nenita 585 5196 or 0915-395-4042, or Ruby 911 84 13 or 0918 621 2975.

Yellow butterfly

THE DAY BEFORE THE COREY'S DEATH, I WORE A YELLOW shirt without giving it much thought. I had a superficial reason for wearing the bright color of the sun. I wanted something to match my dark brown khakis. My friends fainted me for wearing the color of the sun of democracy.

I was only six years old when the 1986 People Power Revolution erupted, but I grew up knowing the importance of expressing our democracy.

Today, thanks to my parents who had joined protest rallies against the dictator although they kept shouting that they were Titos Him or Inutots.

I valued Ninoy's and Tita Cory's sacrifices for our country. I went to yellow rallies since my parents brought me to Ninoy's funeral march in 1983 and to Tita Cory's People Power in 1986. Being in the thick of things made an impact on me through my formative years. This also led me to the question, What is my mission as a young Filipino citizen?

Growing up in Manila's metropolitan modern world put my culture to a severe test. The presidents who succeeded Tita Cory did not make any difference at all. The greed and obsession for power and misuse of government officials led me to the conclusion that our country was going down to the dogs. The last three years of my young adolescent life was a struggle to be a good citizen against all odds. I was partly successful in my academics, but I failed in my personal discipline. I was partly successful in my academics, but I failed in my personal discipline. I was partly successful in my academics, but I failed in my personal discipline

Treasonous EO

LETTERS

HAVE WITH PETTY QUIPS. LIKE A column in a weekly tabloid: President Macapagal-Arroyo's finest of the Senior Addvance-ism fights on advance.

She declared that the "economy posted uninterrupted growth for 33 quarters and more than doubled in size to $186 billion during her 8 ½ years in power," but the Global Economic Intelligence International Development (USAID), in its last Philippine Strategy Report, stated: "60 percent of the Philippine population, approximately 50 million people, live on less than $2 a day. The poorest areas of the country are concentrated in conflict-affected areas of Mindanao where up to 70 percent of the population lives in poverty."

The USAID added: "(T)he Philippines has had a relatively weak movement in income and has failed to attract a significant share of foreign direct investment," averaging only 1/9 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) since 2000, one of the lowest in the region. The report stated further: "Despite moderately strong growth of the GDP and an improvement in fiscal balance in recent years, the Philippines has been overtaken by Malaysia, Thailand, and China on a GDP per capita basis."

The July 28 issue of the Inquirer assured us 100% claimed achievements in the economy: "(T)he fiscal measures protected the economy from global downturn, turned inflation, created 3 million jobs and reduced by 3 million the number of poor people in the country." The USAID statement chose to report: The fiscal measures referred to are the expanded value added tax (EVAT), which caused the VAT from 10 percent to 11 percent and applied the EVAT on oil and power. The economists of the IMF was, in fact, a debt condition of the World Bank intervention of Monetary Fund (WB-IMF), designed to reimburse Philippine's capacity for debt service. Of course, needless for school children and cash dishes or rice rations for some adults were also funded with EVAT.

During its eight and a half years in office, the Arroyo regime governed the economy in the spirit of the WB-IMF, endorsing the WB-IMF debt conditions, not the nationalist mandates of the constitution. These debt conditions are based on two tasks, as prescribed by the Group of 8, and consist of liberalization, deregulation, privatization and fiscal planning (belt-tightening to those debt holders like the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Republic Act, which socialized (passed on to the Filipino people) all the liabilities of the National Power Corp. but privatized (sold) its revenue and transmission purposes. Arroyo's all the assets was executed. Already a law for months now the Cheaper Medicines Act has not benefited Filipinos up to this day. The executive order, recently signed by Ms Arroyo, imposing mandatory price caps will take effect this coming Aug. 15 yet, and applies only to five drugs. It even exempts some drug firms.

Treason.

—ARSENIO GUY INCIONG
Unit 101 Golden Square Condominium,
#145 15th Avenue, Cubao,
Quezon City

We should have our own 'Filipino Encyclopedia'

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO SHARE A FEE. went dream that I feel would be of great help to the Filipino people and our country.

The dream: our own "Filipino Encyclopedia" at par with other encyclopedias in form and scope, but exclusively containing information about our country... heroes, cultures and traditions, flora and fauna, religions, history, geography, leaders and landmarks, science and technology, business, and industry, music, philosophy, dialects and languages, engineering, nutrition, arts and literature, sports, people and anthropology, and other topics that would help in the political personalities, trivias and anything that contributed something of significance in the development of our people and country.

I firmly believe that we're capable of coming together such an encyclopedia. This project will uphold and affirm our "Filipinism" and more in for us the respect of other nations. This will also serve as a unifying force, define more clearly our national identity and keep burning the fire of patriotism and nationalism in the hearts of Filipinos here and abroad. The encyclopedia will provide glimpses into our heritage.

Through cooperation, this project can be accomplished. I have some ideas as to how we can think this project quickly and at a cheaper cost.

The intention is to distribute copies of the encyclopedia to all public and private schools all over the country. This number of all reference books will be a good legacy to the next generation.

I hope that with this letter more people will start thinking about putting together such a book.

—ABELCHERRI ARROYO,
#114 Interville, Talipapa,
Novaliches, Caloocan City

Cory lives in our fight for good governance

I HAVE JUST FOUR MONTHS OLD WHEN the great Ninoy Aquino was assassinated that fateful day of Aug. 21, 1983. I was barely three years old when his widow, Corazon Aquino, toppled a dictator through a peaceful revolution. I was too young to enter the so-called age of reason before I understood what this woman did for us. I know now and I am forever grateful to her.

Many of us who enjoy the liberties that Cory and the brave men and women in Edsa won for us do not realize how much we owe the woman in yellow. It is an crime to be young and not to have understood. It is a crime, however, to grow old and not to care.

When Cory died, part of us as a nation died as well. True, she was just a symbol of democracy—for those who filled Highway 50 in 1986 and those who laid their lives fighting for the liberation of the nation from dictatorship, but hesitated no less, mourning them. True, she was just a "simple housewife" but she embodied the nation's highest and most noble aspirations. Can we say the same of today's men—most particularly, women—in public office? Can we say the same of the lawyers and economists who formed the Hacienderos that and cling to power as if it were their birthright? Can they honestly say what Cory said in her last State of the Nation Address: "God knows, we have made mistakes. I hope that history will judge me favorably because, as God is my witness, I have slid the best I could."

It is true that Cory's passing calls for unity and reconciliation and forgiveness, but it also calls for action, for vigilance, for defending what she stood for and, in all deeds, what she prayed for... democracy, freedom, and good governance.

History books will say that Cory was the first woman to assume the presidency of this land. Our people will remember her in their hearts as the only one who delivered it and, maybe, the only one who actually gave a damn about it. Bobby Tanduay Barzaga put it bluntly and quite

THANK you, Tita Cory, but our goodbye!

accurately: "She did not just govern — she led. There are people who can only govern but do not lead." In fact, there are people who construed obedience but do not command respect.

Upon Cory's death, President Macapagal-Arroyo's cohorts went scrambling for an end to their Cha-cha but out of respect for the deceased president. Cory "convinced to lead even when she no longer governed," Barzaga said, adding that "she not only led when she was alive... she continues to lead herself even in death." Yes, Cory continues to fight for us even in death, actual attempts by one powerful leaders to bury us, even while we are still alive. Cory lives on in our hearts as a symbol of supreme sacrifice, of unwavering faith and a measure of love for one's country. More importantly, Cory lives on in our fight for good governance and in our struggle for a better future for our nation.

—JAMES MICHAEL QUEZON
jamesmichael.quezon@yahoo.com

There should be no negotiations with brutes and criminals

THE ABU SAYYAF GROUP (ASG) CONtinues to be a major threat to security and economic development in some areas in Southern Philippines as it controls its strongholds in the Sulu Archipelago that have killed many innocent civilians and shattered the dreams of many Filipinos. It is motivated not by ideology but by profit.

Following the release of Red Cross volunteer Eugenio Vagni after six months in the Sayyaf captivity, Sen. Richard Gordon proposed that the government grant an amnesty to ASG commanders who would want to return to the fold of the law. I say there should be no negotiations or amnesty with the Abu Sayyaf brigands that have killed many innocent civilians and shattered the dreams of many Filipinos. It is motivated not by ideology but by profit.

Aside from innocent civilians, hundreds of soldiers and cops have died in the campaign to crush the Abu Sayyaf. It only be this reason, we should never negotiate with this group, much less grant its members and commanders amnesty.

The military approach is still the best response to the Sayyaf banditry. The AFP-PNP battalions are a threat not only to the stability but also to national development. The ASG should be crushed as soon as possible. Let them face the list of justice and suffer the consequences of their criminal acts.

—XAVIER BERTELL BALINGASAG
xavierbalingasag@yahoo.com

PITC

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Brand New Vehicles
for the Department of National Defense, Philippine Army and Philippine Navy
Bid Ref. 3000-870, Rebid

Approved Budget for the Contract P5,762,337.50

The Philippine Industrial Training Corporation (PITC), a duly authorized Shared Government Corporation, is open for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of one unit, more or all of the items shown below under rebid Bid Ref. 3000-870, Rebid:

Item	Unit of Issue / Client	Item Description	Qty.	Ceiling Price		Fixed Bid Price	Cash/Price of Bid Documents
				Unit Price	Total		
1	DND	6 Seater Passenger Van - 2.5 Diesel	1 unit	P[illegible]	P[illegible]	[illegible]	P[illegible]
2	PN	4 x 2 Pick-up Double Cab	1 unit	P[illegible]	P[illegible]	[illegible]	P[illegible]
3	PA	15-Seater Passenger Van - Diesel Fuel	1 unit	P[illegible]	P[illegible]	[illegible]	P[illegible]
				TOTAL	P[illegible]		P[illegible]

Approved Budget for the Contract is P5,762,337.50 with funding source from the Department of National Defense, Philippine Army & Philippine Navy

The supplier must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Is a duly registered business entity organized and existing under the laws of the Philippines within the last three (3) years at least one (1) year experience in similar nature with a value not less than 50% of the approved budget for the contract for the item/s to be bid;
2. Must not be blacklisted nor be widely used by government clients (to be supported by list of government clients for the last three (3) years);
3. Must be in existence for at least three (3) consecutive years prior to submission/opening of bids;
4. Must submit the following documents: Mayor's/Business permit and Income/percentage tax returns;
5. Must submit Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License for the Trade/Area of Specialization;
6. Must submit Tax Clearance per Executive Order (EO) 398, Department of National Defense, Philippine Army and Philippine Navy & Mandatory/Any agency or government instrumentality;
7. Must be current Philippine registered;

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting August 11, 2009, starting from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at the 4th Floor of the PITC Building, 7-9 Sumulong St., Barrio Obrero, Makati City, after payment of a non-refundable fee for the cost/price of bid documents.

Duly sealed bid proposals/quotations must be submitted to PITC's Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat on or before 10:00 AM, August 25, 2009, at the PITC Building, 7-9 Sumulong St., Barrio Obrero, Makati City, after payment of a non-refundable fee for the cost/price of bid documents.

Any bid submitted after the deadline shall be rejected.

A Pre-Bid conference is scheduled on August 20, 2009, 2:00 PM at the Bid Room Conference Room, 4th Floor Building, 7-9 Sumulong Street, Barrio Obrero, Makati City. Bidders may submit their queries, if any, in writing at fax no. 844-1001 loc. 1000/1001/1002/1003/1004/1005/1006/1007/1008/1009/1010/1011/1012/1013/1014/1015/1016/1017/1018/1019/1020/1021/1022/1023/1024/1025/1026/1027/1028/1029/1030/1031/1032/1033/1034/1035/1036/1037/1038/1039/1040/1041/1042/1043/1044/1045/1046/1047/1048/1049/1050/1051/1052/1053/1054/1055/1056/1057/1058/1059/1060/1061/1062/1063/1064/1065/1066/1067/1068/1069/1070/1071/1072/1073/1074/1075/1076/1077/1078/1079/1080/1081/1082/1083/1084/1085/1086/1087/1088/1089/1090/1091/1092/1093/1094/1095/1096/1097/1098/1099/1100/1101/1102/1103/1104/1105/1106/1107/1108/1109/1110/1111/1112/1113/1114/1115/1116/1117/1118/1119/1120/1121/1122/1123/1124/1125/1126/1127/1128/1129/1130/1131/1132/1133/1134/1135/1136/1137/1138/1139/1140/1141/1142/1143/1144/1145/1146/1147/1148/1149/1150/1151/1152/1153/1154/1155/1156/1157/1158/1159/1160/1161/1162/1163/1164/1165/1166/1167/1168/1169/1170/1171/1172/1173/1174/1175/1176/1177/1178/1179/1180/1181/1182/1183/1184/1185/1186/1187/1188/1189/1190/1191/1192/1193/1194/1195/1196/1197/1198/1199/1200/1201/1202/1203/1204/1205/1206/1207/1208/1209/1210/1211/1212/1213/1214/1215/1216/1217/1218/1219/1220/1221/1222/1223/1224/1225/1226/1227/1228/1229/1230/1231/1232/1233/1234/1235/1236/1237/1238/1239/1240/1241/1242/1243/1244/1245/1246/1247/1248/1249/1250/1251/1252/1253/1254/1255/1256/1257/1258/1259/1260/1261/1262/1263/1264/1265/1266/1267/1268/1269/1270/1271/1272/1273/1274/1275/1276/1277/1278/1279/1280/1281/1282/1283/1284/1285/1286/1287/1288/1289/1290/1291/1292/1293/1294/1295/1296/1297/1298/1299/1300/1301/1302/1303/1304/1305/1306/1307/1308/1309/1310/1311/1312/1313/1314/1315/1316/1317/1318/1319/1320/1321/1322/1323/1324/1325/1326/1327/1328/1329/1330/1331/1332/1333/1334/1335/1336/1337/1338/1339/1340/1341/1342/1343/1344/1345/1346/1347/1348/1349/1350/1351/1352/1353/1354/1355/1356/1357/1358/1359/1360/1361/1362/1363/1364/1365/1366/1367/1368/1369/1370/1371/1372/1373/1374/1375/1376/1377/1378/1379/1380/1381/1382/1383/1384/1385/1386/1387/1388/1389/1390/1391/1392/1393/1394/1395/1396/1397/1398/1399/1400/1401/1402/1403/1404/1405/1406/1407/1408/1409/1410/1411/1412/1413/1414/1415/1416/1417/1418/1419/1420/1421/1422/1423/1424/1425/1426/1427/1428/1429/1430/1431/1432/1433/1434/1435/1436/1437/1438/1439/1440/1441/1442/1443/1444/1445/1446/1447/1448/1449/1450/1451/1452/1453/1454/1455/1456/1457/1458/1459/1460/1461/1462/1463/1464/1465/1466/1467/1468/1469/1470/1471/1472/1473/1474/1475/1476/1477/1478/1479/1480/1481/1482/1483/1484/1485/1486/1487/1488/1489/1490/1491/1492/1493/1494/1495/1496/1497/1498/1499/1500/1501/1502/1503/1504/1505/1506/1507/1508/1509/1510/1511/1512/1513/1514/1515/1516/1517/1518/1519/1520/1521/1522/1523/1524/1525/1526/1527/1528/1529/1530/1531/1532/1533/1534/1535/1536/1537/1538/1539/1540/1541/1542/1543/1544/1545/1546/1547/1548/1549/1550/1551/1552/1553/1554/1555/1556/1557/1558/1559/1560/1561/1562/1563/1564/1565/1566/1567/1568/1569/1570/1571/1572/1573/1574/1575/1576/1577/1578/1579/1580/1581/1582/1583/1584/1585/1586/1587/1588/1589/1590/1591/1592/1593/1594/1595/1596/1597/1598/1599/1600/1601/1602/1603/1604/1605/1606/1607/1608/1609/1610/1611/1612/1613/1614/1615/1616/1617/1618/1619/1620/1621/1622/1623/1624/1625/1626/1627/1628/1629/1630/1631/1632/1633/1634/1635/1636/1637/1638/1639/1640/1641/1642/1643/1644/1645/1646/1647/1648/1649/1650/1651/1652/1653/1654/1655/1656/1657/1658/1659/1660/1661/1662/1663/1664/1665/1666/1667/1668/1669/1670/1671/1672/1673/1674/1675/1676/1677/1678/1679/1680/1681/1682/1683/1684/1685/1686/1687/1688/1689/1690/1691/1692/1693/1694/1695/1696/1697/1698/1699/1700/1701/1702/1703/1704/1705/1706/1707/1708/1709/1710/1711/1712/1713/1714/1715/1716/1717/1718/1719/1720/1721/1722/1723/1724/1725/1726/1727/1728/1729/1730/1731/1732/1733/1734/1735/1736/1737/1738/1739/1740/1741/1742/1743/1744/1745/1746/1747/1748/1749/1750/1751/1752/1753/1754/1755/1756/1757/1758/1759/1760/1761/1762/1763/1764/1765/1766/1767/1768/1769/1770/1771/1772/1773/1774/1775/1776/1777/1778/1779/1780/1781/1782/1783/1784/1785/1786/1787/1788/1789/1790/1791/1792/1793/1794/1795/1796/1797/1798/1799/1800/1801/1802/1803/1804/1805/1806/1807/1808/1809/1810/1811/1812/1813/1814/1815/1816/1817/1818/1819/1820/1821/1822/1823/1824/1825/1826/1827/1828/1829/1830/1831/1832/1833/1834/1835/1836/1837/1838/1839/1840/1841/1842/1843/1844/1845/1846/1847/1848/1849/1850/1851/1852/1853/1854/1855/1856/1857/1858/1859/1860/1861/1862/1863/1864/1865/1866/1867/1868/1869/1870/1871/1872/1873/1874/1875/1876/1877/1878/1879/1880/1881/1882/1883/1884/1885/1886/1887/1888/1889/1890/1891/1892/1893/1894/1895/1896/1897/1898/1899/1900/1901/1902/1903/1904/1905/1906/1907/1908/1909/1910/1911/1912/1913/1914/1915/1916/1917/1918/1919/1920/1921/1922/1923/1924/1925/1926/1927/1928/1929/1930/1931/1932/1933/1934/1935/1936/1937/1938/1939/1940/1941/1942/1943/1944/1945/1946/1947/1948/1949/1950/1951/1952/1953/1954/1955/1956/1957/1958/1959/1960/1961/1962/1963/1964/1965/1966/1967/1968/1969/1970/1971/1972/1973/1974/1975/1976/1977/1978/1979/1980/1981/1982/1983/1984/1985/1986/1987/1988/1989/1990/1991/1992/1993/1994/1995/1996/1997/1998/1999/2000/2001/2002/2003/2004/2005/2006/2007/2008/2009/2010/2011/2012/2013/2014/2015/2016/2017/2018/2019/2020/2021/2022/2023/2024/2025/2026/2027/2028/2029/2030/2031/2032/2033/2034/2035/2036/2037/2038/2039/2040/2041/2042/2043/2044/2045/2046/2047/2048/2049/2050/2051/2052/2053/2054/2055/2056/2057/2058/2059/2060/2061/2062/2063/2064/2065/2066/2067/2068/2069/2070/2071/2072/2073/2074/2075/2076/2077/2078/2079/2080/2081/2082/2083/2084/2085/2086/2087/2088/2089/2090/2091/2092/2093/2094/2095/2096/2097/2098/2099/2100/2101/2102/2103/2104/2105/2106/2107/2108/2109/2110/2111/2112/2113/2114/2115/2116/2117/2118/2119/2120/2121/2122/2123/2124/2125/2126/2127/2128/2129/2130/2131/2132/2133/2134/2135/2136/2137/2138/2139/2140/2141/2142/2143/2144/2145/2146/2147/2148/2149/2150/2151/2152/2153/2154/2155/2156/2157/2158/2159/2160/2161/2162/2163/2164/2165/2166/2167/2168/2169/2170/2171/2172/2173/2174/2175/2176/2177/2178/2179/2180/2181/2182/2183/2184/2185/2186/2187/2188/2189/2190/2191/2192/2193/2194/2195/2196/2197/2198/2199/2200/2201/2202/2203/2204/2205/2206/2207/2208/2209/2210/2211/2212/2213/2214/2215/2216/2217/2218/2219/2220/2221/2222/2223/2224/2225/2226/2227/2228/2229/2230/2231/2232/2233/2234/2235/2236/2237/2238/2239/2240/2241/2242/2243/2244/2245/2246/2247/2248/2249/2250/2251/2252/2253/2254/2255/2256/2257/2258/2259/2260/2261/2262/2263/2264/2265/2266/2267/2268/2269/2270/2271/2272/2273/2274/2275/2276/2277/2278/2279/2280/2281/2282/2283/2284/2285/2286/2287/2288/2289/2290/2291/2292/2293/2294/2295/2296/2297/2298/2299/2300/2301/2302/2303/2304/2305/2306/2307/2308/2309/2310/2311/2312/2313/2314/2315/2316/2317/2318/2319/2320/2321/2322/2323/2324/2325/2326/2327/2328/2329/2330/2331/2332/2333/2334/2335/2336/2337/2338/2339/2340/2341/2342/2343/2344/2345/2346/2347/2348/2349/2350/2351/2352/2353/2354/2355/2356/2357/2358/2359/2360/2361/2362/2363/2364/2365/2366/2367/2368/2369/2370/2371/2372/2373/2374/2375/2376/2377/2378/2379/2380/2381/2382/2383/2384/2385/2386/2387/2388/2389/2390/2391/2392/2393/2394/2395/2396/2397/2398/2399/2400/2401/2402/2403/2404/2405/2406/2407/2408/2409/2410/2411/2412/2413/2414/2415/2416/2417/2418/2419/2420/2421/2422/2423/2424/2425/2426/2427/2428/2429/2430/2431/2432/2433/2434/2435/2436/2437/2438/2439/2440/2441/2442/2443/2444/2445/2446/2447/2448/2449/2450/2451/2452/2453/2454/2455/2456/2457/2458/2459/2460/2461/2462/2463/2464/2465/2466/2467/2468/2469/2470/2471/2472/2473/2474/2475/2476/2477/2478/2479/2480/2481/2482/2483/2484/2485/2486/2487/2488/2489/2490/2491/2492/2493/2494/2495/2496/2497/2498/2499/2500/2501/2502/2503/2504/2505/2506/2507/2508/2509/2510/2511/2512/2513/2514/2515/2516/2517/2518/2519/2520/2521/2522/2523/2524/2525/2526/2527/2528/2529/2530/2531/2532/2533/2534/2535/2536/2537/2538/2539/2540/2541/2542/2543/2544/2545/2546/2547/2548/2549/2550/2551/2552/2553/2554/2555/2556/2557/2558/2559/2560/2561/2562/2563/2564/2565/2566/2567/2568/2569/2570/2571/2572/2573/2574/2575/2576/2577/2578/2579/2580/2581/2582/2583/2584/2585/2586/2587/2588/2589/2590/2591/2592/2593/2594/2595/2596/2597/2598/2599/2600/2601/2602/2603/2604/2605/2606/2607/2608/2609/2610/2611/2612/2613/2614/2615/2616/2617/2618/2619/2620/2621/2622/2623/2624/2625/2626/2627/2628/2629/2630/2631/2632/2633/2634/2635/2636/2637/2638/2639/2640/2641/2642/2643/2644/2645/2646/2647/2648/2649/2650/2651/2652/2653/2654/2655/2656/2657/2658/2659/2660/2661/2662/2663/2664/2665/2666/2667/2668/2669/2670/2671/2672/2673/2674/2675/2676/2677/2678/2679/2680/2681/2682/2683/2684/2685/2686/2687/2688/2689/2690/2691/2692/2693/2694/2695/2696/2697/2698/2699/2700/2701/2702/2703/2704/2705/2706/2707/2708/2709/2710/2711/2712/2713/2714/2715/2716/2717/2718/2719/2720/2721/2722/2723/2724/2725/2726/2727/2728/2729/2730/2731/2732/2733/2734/2735/2736/2737/2738/2739/2740/2741/2742/2743/2744/2745/2746/2747/2748/2749/2750/2751/2752/2753/2754/2755/2756/2757/2758/2759/2760/2761/2762/2763/2764/2765/2766/2767/2768/2769/2770/2771/2772/2773/2774/2775/2776/2777/2778/2779/2780/2781/2782/2783/2784/2785/2786/2787/2788/2789/2790/2791/2792/2793/2794/2795/2796/2797/2798/2799/2800/2801/2802/2803/2804/2805/2806/2807/2808/2809/2810/2811/2812/2813/2814/2815/2816/2817/2818/2819/2820/2821/2822/2823/2824/2825/2826/2827/2828/2829/2830/2831/2832/2833/2834/2835/2836/2837/2838/2839/2840/2841/2842/2843/2844/2845/2846/2847/2848/2849/2850/2851/2852/2853/2854/2855/2856/2857/2858/2859/2860/2861/2862/2863/2864/2865/2866/2867/2868/2869/2870/2871/2872/2873/2874/2875/2876/2877/2878/2879/2880/2881/2882/2883/2884/2885/2886/2887/2888/2889/2890/2891/2892/2893/2894/2895/2896/2897/2898/2899/2900/2901/2902/2903/2904/2905/2906/2907/2908/2909/2910/2911/2912/2913/2914/2915/2916/2917/2918/2919/2920/2921/2922/2923/2924/2925/2926/2927/2928/2929/2930/2931/2932/2933/2934/2935/2936/2937/2938/2939/2940/2941/2942/2943/2944/2945/2946/2947/2948/2949/2950/2951/2952/2953/2954/2955/2956/2957/2958/2959/2960/2961/2962/2963/2964/2965/2966/2967/2968/2969/2970/2971/2972/2973/2974/2975/2976/2977/2978/2979/2980/2981/2982/2983/2984/2985/2986/2987/2988/2989/2990/2991/2992/2993/2994/2995/2996/2997/2998/2999/3000/3001/3002/3003/3004/3005/3006/3007/3008/3009/3010/3011/3012/3013/3014/3015/3016/3017/3018/3019/3020/3021/3022/3023/3024/3025/3026/3027/3028/3029/3030/3031/3032/3033/3034/3035/3036/3037/3038/3039/3040/3041/3042/3043/3044/3045/3046/3047/3048/3049/3050/3051/3052/3053/3054/3055/3056/3057/3058/3059/3060/3061/3062/3063/3064/3065/3066/3067/3068/3069/3070/3071/3072/3073/3074/3075/3076/3077/3078/3079/3080/3081/3082/3083/3084/3085/3086/3087/3088/3089/3090/3091/3092/3093/3094/3095/3096/3097/3098/3099/3100/3101/3102/3103/3104/3105/3106/3107/3108/3109/3110/3111/3112/3113/3114/3115/3116/3117/3118/3119/3120/3121/3122/3123/3124/3125/3126/3127/3128/3129/3130/3131/3132/3133/3134/3135/3136/3137/3138/3139/3140/3141/3142/3143/3144/3145/3146/3147/3148/3149/3150/3151/3152/3153/3154/3155/3156/3157/3158/3159/3160/3161/3162/3163/3164/3165/3166/3167/3168/3169/3170/3171/3172/3173/3174/3175/3176/3177/3178/3179/3180/3181/3182/3183/3184/3185/3186/3187/3188/3189/3190/3191/3192/3193/3194/3195/3196/3197/3198/3199/3200/3201/3202/3203/3204/3205/3206/3207/3208/3209/3210/3211/3212/3213/3214/3215/3216/3217/3218/3219/3220/3221/3222/3223/3224/3225/3226/3227/3228/3229/3230/3231/3232/3233/3234/3235/3236/3237/3238/3239/3240/3241/3242/3243/3244/3245/3246/3247/3248/3249/3250/3251/3252/3253/3254/3255/3256/3257/3258/3259/3260/3261/3262/3263/3264/3265/3266/3267/3268/3269/3270/3271/3272/3273/3274/3275/3276/3277/3278/3279/3280/3281/3282/3283/3284/3285/3286/3287/3288/3289/3290/3291/3292/3293/3294/3295/3296/3297/3298/3299/3300/3301/3302/3303/3304/3305/3306/3307/3308/3309/3310/3311/3312/3313/3314/3315/3316/3317/3318/3319/3320/3321/3322/3323/3324/3325/3326/3327/3328/3329/3330/3331/3332/3333/3334/3335/3336/3337/3338/3339/3340/3341/3342/3343/3344/3345/3346/3347/3348/3349/3350/3351/3352/3353/3354/3355/3356/3357/3358/3359/3360/3361/3362/3363/3364/3365/3366/3367/3368/3369/3370/3371/3372/3373/3374/3375/3376/3377/3378/3379/3380/3381/3382/3383/3384/3385/3386/3387/3388/3389/3390/3391/3392/3393/3394/3395/3396/3397/3398/3399/3400/3401/3402/3403/3404/3405/3406/3407/3408/3409/3410/3411/3412/3413/3414/3415/3416/3417/3418/3419/3420/3421/3422/3423/3424/3425/3426/3427/3428/3429/3430/3431/3432/3433/3434/3435/3436/3437/3438/3439/3440/3441/3442/3443/3444/3445/3446/3447/3448/3449/3450/3451/3452/3453/3454/3455/3456/3457/3458/3459/3460/3461/3462/3463/3464/3465/3466/3467/3468/3469/3470/3471/3472/3473/3474/3475/3476/3477/3478/3479/3480/3481/3482/3483/3484/3485/3486/3487/3488/3489/3490/3491/3492/3493/3494/3495/3496/3497/3498/3499/3500/3501/3502/3503/3504/3505/3506/3507/3508/3509/3510/3511/3512/3513/3514/3515/3516/3517/3518/3519/3520/3521/3522/3523/3524/3525/3526/3527/3528/3529/3530/3531/3532/3533/3534/3535/3536/3537/3538/3539/3540/3541/3542/3543/3544/3545/3546/3547/3548/3549/3550/3551/3552/3553/3554/3555/3556/3557/3558/3559/3560/3561/3562/3563/3564/3565/3566/3567/3568/3569/3570/3571/3572/3573/3574/3575/3576/3577/3578/3579/3580/3581/3582/3583/3584/3585/3586/3587/3588/3589/3590/3591/3592/3593/3594/3595/3596/3597/3598/3599/3600/3601/3602/3603/3604/3605/3606/3607/3608/3609/3610/3611/3612/3613/3614/3615/3616/3617/3618/3619/3620/3621/3622/3623/3624/3625/3626/3627/3628/3629/3630/3631/3632/3633/3634/3635/3636/3637/3638/3639/3640/3641/3642/3643/3644/3645/3646/3647/3648/3649/3650/3651/3652/3653/3654/3655/3656/3657/3658/3659/3660/3661/3662/3663/3664/3665/3666/3667/3668/3669/3670/3671/3672/3673/3674/3675/3676/3677/3678/3679/3680/3681/3682/3683/3684/3685/3686/3687/3688/3689/3690/3691/3692/3693/3694/3695/3696/3697/3698/3699/3700/3701/3702/3703/3704/3705/3706/3707/3708/3709/3710/3711/3712/3713/3714/3715/3716/3717/3718/3719/3720/3721/3722/3723/3724/3725/3726/3727/3728/3729/3730/3731/3732/3733/3734/3735/3736/3737/3738/3739/3740/3741/3742/3743/3744/3745/3746/3747/3748/3749/3750/3751/3752/3753/3754/3755/3756/3757/3758/3759/3760/3761/3762/3763/3764/3765/3766/3767/3768/3769/3770/3771/3772/3773/3774/3775/3776/3777/3778/3779/3780/3781/3782/3783/3784/3785/3786/3787/3788/3789/3790/3791/3792/3793/3794/3795/3796/3797/3798/3799/3800/3801/3802/3803/3804/3805/3806/3807/3808/3809/3810/3811/3812/3813/3814/3815/3816/3817/3818/3819/3820/3821/3822/3823/3824/3825/3826/3827/3828/3829/3830/3831/3832/3833/3834/3835/3836/3837/3838/3839/3840/3841/3842/3843/3844/3845/3846/3847/3848/3849/3850/3851/3852/3853/3854/3855/3856/3857/3858/3859/3860/3861/3862/3863/3864/3865/3866/3867/3868/3869/3870/3871/3872/3873/3874/3875/3876/3877/3878/3879/3880/3881/3882/3883/3884/3885/3886/3887/3888/3889/3890/3891/3892/3893/3894/3895/3896/3897/3898/3899/3900/3901/3902/3903/3904/3905/3906/3907/3908/3909/3910/3911/3912/3913/3914/3915/3916/3917/3918/3919/3920/3921/3922/3923/3924/3925/3926/3927/3928/3929/3930/3931/3932/3933/3934/3935/3936/3937/3938/3939/3940/3941/3942/3943/3944/3945/3946/3947/3948/3949/3950/3951/3952/3953/3954/3955/3956/3957/3958/3959/3960/3961/3962/3963/3964/3965/3966/3967/3968/3969/3970/3971/3972/3973/3974/3975/3976/3977/3978/3979/3980/3981/3982/3983/3984/3985/3986/3987/3988/3989/3990/3991/3992/3993/3994/3995/3996/3997/3998/3999/4000/4001/4002/4003/4004/4005/4006/4007/4008/4009/4010/4011/4012/4013/4014/4015/4016/4017/4018/4019/4020/4021/4022/4023/4024/4025/4026/4027/4028/4029/4030/4031/4032/4033/4034/4035/4036/4037/4038/4039/4040/4041/4042/4043/4044/4045/4046/4047/4048/4049/4050/4051/4052/4053/4054/4055/4056/4057/4058/4059/4060/4061/4062/4063/4064/4065/4066/4067/4068/4069/4070/4071/4072/4073/4074/4075/4076/4077/4078/4079/4080/4081/4082/4083/4084/4085/4086/4087/4088/4089/4090/4091/4092/4093/4094/4095/4096/4097/4098/4099/4100/4101/4102/4103/4104/4105/4106/4107/4108/4109/4110/4111/4112/4113/4114/4115/4116/4117/4118/4119/4120/4121/4122/4123/4124/4125/4126/4127/4128/4129/4130/4131/4132/4133/4134/4135/4136/4137/4138/4139/4140/4141/4142/4143/4144/4145/4146/4147/4148/4149/4150/4151/4152/4153/4154/4155/4156/4157/4158/4159/4160/4161/4162/4163/4164/4165/4166/4167/4168/4169/4170/4171/4172/4173/4174/4175/4176/4177/4178/4179/4180/4181/4182/4183/4184/4185/4186/4187/4188/4189/4190/4191/4192/4193/4194/4195/4196/4197/4198/4199/4200/4201/4202/4203/4204/4205/4206/4207/4208/4209/4210/4211/4212/4213/4214/4215/4216/4217/4218/4219/4220/4221/4222/4223/4224/4225/4226/4227/4228/4229/4230/4231/4232/4233/4234/4235/4236/4237/4238/4239/4240/4241/4242/4243/4244/4245/4246/4247/4248/4249/4250/4251/4252/4253/4254/4255/4256/4257/4258/4259/4260/4261/4262/4263/4264/4265/4266/4267/4268/4269/4270/4271/4272/4273/4274/4275/4276/4277/4278/4279/4280/4281/4282/4283/4284/4285/4286/4287/4288/4289/4290/4291/4292/4293/4294/4295/4296/4297/4298/4299/4300/4301/4302/4303/4304/4305/4306/4307/4308/4309/4310/4311/4312/4313/4314/4315/4316/4317/4318/4319/4320/4321/4322/4323/4324/4325/4326/4327/4328/4329/4330/4331/4332/4333/4334/4335/4336/4337/4338/4339/4340/4341/4342/4343/4344/4345/4346/4347/4348/4349/4350/4351/4352/4353/4354/4355/4356/4357/4358/4359/4360/4361/4362/4363/4364/4365/4366/4367/4368/4369/4370/4371/4372/4373/4374/4375/4376/4377/4378/4379/4380/4381/4382/4383/4384/4385/4386/4387/4388/4389/4390/4391/4392/4393/4394/4395/4396/4397/4398/4399/4400/4401/4402/4403/4404/4405/4406/4407/4408/4409/4410/4411/4412/4413/4414/4415/4416/4417/4418/4419/4420/4421/4422/4423/4424/4425/4426/4427/4428/4429/4430/4431/4432/4433/4434/4435/4436/4437/4438/4439/4440/4441/4442/4443/4444/4445/4446/4447/4448/4449/4450/4451/4452/4453/4454/4455/4456/4457/4458/4459/4460/4461/4462/4463/4464/4465/4466/4467/4468/4469/4470/4471/4472/4473/4474/4475/4476/4477/4478/4479/4480/4481/4482/4483/4484/4485/4486/4487/4488/4489/4490/4491/4492/4493/4494/4495/4496/4497/4498/4499/4500/4501/4502/4503/4504/4505/4506/4507/4508/4509/4510/4511/4512/4513/4514/4515/4516/4517/4518/4519/4520/4521/4522/4523/4524/4525/4526/4527/4528/4529/4530/4531/4532/4533/4534/4535/4536/4537/4538/4539/4540/4541/4542/4543/4544/4545/4546/4547/4548/4549/4550/4551/4552/4553/4554/4555/4556/4557/4558/4559/4560/4561/4562/4563/4564/4565/4566/4567/4568/4569/4570/4571/4572/4573/4574/4575/4576/4577/4578/4579/4580/4581/4582/4583/4584/4585/4586/4587/4588/4589/4590/4591/4592/4593/4594/4595/4596/4597/4598/4599/4600/4601/4602/4603/4604/4605/4606/4607/4608/4609/4610/4611/4612/4613/4614/4615/4616/4617/4618/4619/4620/4621/4622/4623/4624/4625/4626/4627/4628/4629/4630/4631/4632/4633/4634/4635/4636/4637/4638/4639/4640/4641/4642/4643/4644/4645/4646/4647/4648/4649/4650/4651/4652/4653/4654/4655/4656/4657/4658/4659/4660/4661/4662/4663/4664/4665/4666/4667/4668/4669/4670/4671/4672/4673/4674/4675/4676/4677/4678/4679/4680/4681/4682/4683/4684/4685/4686/4687/4688/4689/4690/4691/4692/4693/4694/4695/4696/4697/4698/4699/4700/4701/4702/4703/4704/4705/4706/4707/4708/4709/4710/4711/4712/4713/4714/4715/4716/4717/4718/4719/4720/4721/4722/4723/4724/4725/4726/4727/4728/4729/4730/4731/4732/4733/4734/4735/4736/4737/4738/4739/4740/4741/4742/4743/4744/4745/4746/4747/4748/4749/4750/4751/4752/4753/4754/4755/4756/4757/4758/4759/4760/4761/4762/4763/4764/4765/4766/4767/4768/4769/4770/4771/4772/4773/4774/4775/4776/4777/4778/4779/4780/4781/4782/4783/4784/4785/4786/4787/4788/4789/4790/4791/4792/4793/4794/4795/4796/4797/4798/4799/4800/4801/4802/4803/4804/4805/4806/4807/4808/4809/4810/4811/4812/4813/4814/4815/4816/4817/4818/4819/4820/4821/4822/4823/4824/4825/4826/4827/4

Across the NATION

Among Ed loses early recount round

IN BLOOM
A worker applies finishing touches on a giant replica of a Walking/Waling Ramon at the Clowntia Park in time for the Kadayunan Festival, Davao City's most bold every year to celebrate a good harvest of fruits and flowers and which will start Aug. 17-23.

By Marlon Ramos in Manila and Yuneil Ocejo, Inquirer General Intern

PAMPANGA GOV. EDDIE Panlilio lost in the early round of his fight against a recount of votes in the 2007 elections that an ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo was questioning after she lost by about 1,000 votes to the priest-turned politician.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) Division junked a petition by Panlilio to stop the creation of 21 committees to conduct a recount of the votes cast in the gubernatorial elections in Pampanga.

The Comelec had said 21 committees were being created to speed up the process.

Commissioners Nicodemo Ferrer allowed Panlilio's that the recount was tilted in favor of Lilia Pineda, a close friend of Mrs Arroyo and wife of suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Boyet" Pineda. Lilia, former board member, was Panlilio's closest rival in the 2007 elections.

Ferrer said closed circuit TV cameras and video coverage will be set up in the venue of the recount to ensure transparency in the process and allay fears of cheating.

Panlilio tried to block the creation of 21 committees to conduct a new count of the votes, saying it was too costly for him.

Ferrer said he found Panlilio's reasons "ridiculous."

In Pampanga, Panlilio said he believed Malacañang was behind the recount, although he said he didn't have close proof to substantiate his allegation.

"It is the belief of the people that Malacañang is behind this. It's not in the level of the President but at the level of Congressman Mikey (Arroyo). That's the belief of the people," he said.

ONE OF THE ballot boxes containing votes that would be counted again at the Comelec in a protest that could unseat Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio.

Panlilio said Malacañang wanted him out as governor because "they (would) not want a governor that is not beholden to them."

"They want to get (his) governor out of office," he said at a rally of his supporters on Tuesday.

According to Panlilio, his supporters believed that his critics against the Arroyos had earned from them ire.

He said those included statements that Representative Arroyo was the "easiest candidate to beat" and that Mrs Arroyo was "not enough" of winning in the second district.

Add to those were his opposition to moves to convene a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution, his allotment of the P800,000 he received as a member of local officials with Mrs Arroyo at the height of the C5 scandal in October 2005, the phantom votes he filed against Rodolfo Ocampo and the Capitol, and his controversies over the frequent visits of the President in the second district.

Speaking to the program, Panlilio said the recount case is not a local but a national issue as well because Pampanga, he said, has become the "test battleground" of the Arroyos' bid to stay longer in power.

Threat of suits works in taxes, exec says

By Barry Armando, Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—THE city government has found that sounding to legal action will force property owners to pay their long-due real property taxes.

Cristina M. Menoza, treasurer in charge of the Dumaguete City Treasurer's Office, said the city government had collected more than P2.45 million in delinquent taxes after the city government sent published notices of auction for properties with unpaid taxes.

Delinquent landowners owed the city government unpaid real property taxes ranging from P20,000 to P500,000 from 1998 to 2007.

Of 58 delinquent taxpayers listed in the notice of auction published by the city treasurer's office in 2007, 45 either paid in full their obligation or entered into a compromise agreement to pay their obligations in installment.

Last July 20, Menoza said her office was about to conduct a public auction of the remaining properties but the property owners opted to pay their obligations.

She said her office would publish soon the names of another 50 delinquent taxpayers as a requirement for public auction.

Menoza explained that the city government opted to limit the number of names to be published each time because publication is expensive.

Treat addicts as 'diseased,' drug summit told

BAGUIO CITY—FOUR THIRD parts of Benguet have been eliminated as major sources of marijuana, drug enforcers are pursuing a new anti-narcotics drive that treats illegal drug users as "diseased people," and not as criminals.

During a drug summit here on Wednesday, doctors and behavioral experts said many abuse cases may reflect a pathological syndrome called ATS (amphetamine type stimulants), which, they stressed, must be addressed medically.

Fernando Picker, president of the Movement Against Alcohol and Stimulant Addiction (Mosaic), said law enforcers must replace alternative measures to reduce drug dependence because drug abusers are essentially psychologically impaired.

Stopping drug abusers requires them "to want to stop," and may or be compelled by court order or by family, he said.

Government records show that only drug abusers from rich families appear to have undergone treatment in 2007, he said.

During the summit, Chief Insp. Edgar Apilla, Cordillera director of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency reported that the government has made some progress in reducing domestic drug supplies.

But he said marijuana plantations still exist in Tinguian towns in Kalinga, Itabayan in Mt. Province; Atulpole and Buscan towns in Ifugao, and Bilangan and Bokian towns in Benguet.

Cordillera used to be classified as a major supplier of marijuana. The region's topography, poverty and profitability of marijuana plantations are the main reasons marijuana could not be eradicated, Apilla said.

A kilogram of marijuana sells for P1,000 in Ifugao and up to P9,000 in Baguio or Cebu, he said.

But marijuana can be smuggled out as in the case of Ifugaonon cases in Benguet, which used to be the region's biggest producer.

Benguet Prosecutor Alfredo Crisanto said the prosecution of drug cases has also improved. Last year, the PDEA saw in 33 of 35 decongested drug cases in Baguio, he said.

Wilso said government must also start addressing the need in its rescue arrest to remember for the AIDs-afflicted who cannot afford to rates of drug rehabilitation centers.

Baguio is piloting the country's first outpatient desk for substance abuse and disorders at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC).

But the BGHMC only handles cases that are referred by the courts, Hider said. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

CRACKS run through a house, one of three damaged in Mainit Public, Negros Occidental. New officials blame continuous rains for the phenomenon.

New cracks discovered in town's danger zone

By Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—OFFICIALS are planning to expand a danger zone in Mainit, Public town from 200 to 700 hectares as more cracks on the ground were discovered in three more communities in a village there.

Jeremie Dan Plaza, Mainit Public executive, said on Tuesday a team was sent to the three communities in Barangay Quintin Pe-ree to check the new cracks.

On Monday, the town's disaster council declared a 200-ha area in Sitio Mainit and Tighaya, communities in Quintin Perez, as a danger zone. Residents in those areas were told to move out.

Three weeks of continuous rains loosened soil in Quintin Perez, causing the ground to move and cracks that swallowed houses to appear. Crops were also destroyed.

Enrique Lacson, Negros Occidental board member and chair of the committee on natural disasters and calamities, said the ground movement also triggered a landslide that left a crater that is 2,000 sqm in area and about 10 m deep.

Jonalbe states also appeared and these were filled with water, according to Lacson.

The cracks turned into sinkholes from where water could overflow and trigger landslides that could endanger the lives of residents in low-lying areas, similar to what happened in Guinsaugon, Southern Leyte, in February 2006.

Plaza said it was "near impossible" to drain the craters because it would be difficult to bring in heavy equipment to the area because of their steep terrain.

"The best that we can do for now is to ask residents in the possible parts of a landslide to evacuate their areas," he said.

The phenomenon has yet to be explained by geologists, however.

WARNING

WARNING is hereby given that the **"PNEUMATIC VALVE AND ROD SYSTEM" (PVAR System)** that can be fitted for the AR15, M16, M4, and similar high-powered rifles in various calibers is a FILIPINO INVENTION and, since 2005, has undergone rigorous research and development in manufacturing and action spring technology, among others. It is now duly registered with the PHILIPPINE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE under **Patent Pending No. 12009000176** which invention has been assigned by its inventors exclusively in favor of the **UNITED DEFENSE MANUFACTURING CORPORATION**, a 100% Filipino-owned weapons research and manufacturing company.

For more details about the **PVAR System** which is the subject of the patent, interested parties may visit the UDMC website at www.udmcweapons.com. In essence, the **PVAR System** replaces the "Direct Gas Impingement System" which is utilized in the older conventional design of the AR15, M16, M4, and similar high-powered rifles since the 1960s.

Any duplication, reproduction, imitation, copy, sale or misrepresentation of the said **PVAR System**, assembly, design, or similar device, either of local or foreign origin, without the prior and full written consent and approval of the inventors and the UDMC, shall be prosecuted to the full extent of both Philippine and international laws.

AMA AND SABUCA LAW OFFICE
Unit 339 Londcen Ville II
Mindanao Avenue, Tandang Sora
Quezon City, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 474-72-22

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Lifestyle mall rouses 'Sleeping Lion'

By Roy M. Nuezl
Legazpi City

THE KAPUNTIRAN HILL AT THE port area, which residents of Legazpi City call the "Sleeping Lion," has awakened with the soft opening of a "lifestyle mall" called the Embarcadero de Legazpi.

Occupying 2.6 hectares of reclaimed land, the Embarcadero was designed by American engineers and inspired by the Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, California. It is open to locators who want their customers to savor the sights of the Mayon Volcano and the Albay Gulf, as well as the rising and setting of the sun.

"With a leasable area of only 1.2 hectares, mall goers will have plenty of space to walk, even bike, around. The reason for this is that when you say lifestyle mall, you should have the space for hanging, good architecture and dining," Harry V. Roseon, the mall manager, explains.

"We're hoping up the way people of Legazpi would be looking into mall shopping, dining and even strolling because of the business process outsourcing offices and the area where a call center is supposed to rise," he adds.

What is unique about the Embarcadero is that it's more of a high-end choice, though there are low-end and mid-end alternatives, Roseon says. It is envisioned to be a world-class lifestyle mall and the first of its kind in Bicol.

Scheduled to fully open by October, the Embarcadero already has a few locators, such as Ritan's, Tapa King, Biggie Bites, Uncle's Grill and Puerto Maldivo restaurants. Soon to open are Phil's Point, Ming Kamil, Casa Nicasia and the Pacific Dive, a cafe featuring diving gadgets and events.

"Since the soft opening on July 18, we are having night life events, giving you the most beautiful feeling with the ambiance of fine dining by the beautiful Albay Gulf," Roseon says.

The mall area, which can accommodate 12 buildings, is part of a proposed development complex that roughly covers 200 hectares, including a boulevard accessible to the southern villages of the city Legazpi has one of the most organized road networks and public transport systems in the province and in the region.

"The mall area is just one percent to reality as we have opened roads which eventually would be a new passenger jeep routes to and from the areas behind the Sleeping Lion," Roseon says.

Aside from offices and restaurants, the Embarcadero would offer boutiques, a recreation market place, hotel and spa, watering holes, amusement centers, cafés, outdoor patios and a 30-meter lighthouse. At the celebration plaza in the middle, big events can be held.

An 8,000-seat call center will also rise at its Information Technology Park.

Also expected to open is the Star Radio Network, an FM radio station with AM programming at certain periods of the day whose booth is located at the lighthouse.

The Embarcadero will "activate" the waterfront 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Roseon says.

It is also envisioned to be a jump-off point to Bicol's eco-tourism wonders, including the exhale shades of Donsol, Sorsogon; marina rays of Tiwi-Oas, Mayon; Misibis Bonera, Sleeper & Spa, the sinuating Sing-Asi Lake in Misibis, Albay; the cobra Sula Channel, Poreon Cave and its underground river, and the Wee Falls.

"There will be water sports to make the most of the beautiful and clean waters of the Albay Gulf and the beautiful Kapuntiran Hill," Roseon says.

Ma. Graciabelle G. Cabria, the marketing manager, says the proposed BPO center could hold some 8,000 call center seats. On its third floor will be the training center of the Southern Luzon Technological College Foundation Inc.

"We no longer need to try our luck in Manila to look for a call center job. It is here and almost up for grabs," Joel Camacho, a computer science graduate from Bernad, says.

Accredited by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, the 19.4-billion IT Park Peninsula will be the first IT resource in the region.

It is envisioned to be a world-class mall and the first of its kind in Bicol

NIGHTTIME (top photo) or daytime, the Embarcadero de Legazpi at the port area of Legazpi City in Albay is a top attraction and tourist destination of mall goers in the province and the rest of Bicol, which also offers the sights of the Mayon Volcano and the Albay Gulf. PHOTOS BY ROY M. NUEZL

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Eagles seek solo lead vs Warriors; Archers test Falcons

By Jasmine W. Payo

ATENEO AIMS TO BUILD ON ITS STRONG start even as University of the East tries to cope minus its top player when the second round of the UAAP men's basketball tournament starts today at the Araneta Coliseum.

"When you get into the second round you really want to get on a run and you want to peak at the right time, which means you want to play your best basketball going into the second round," said Ateneo coach Norman Black.

The Blue Eagles, who capped the first round with a thrilling seven-point conquest of bitter foe La Salle, share for the solo lead against the fired Warriors at 4 p.m.

Ateneo, tied for top spot with the Eastern University at 6-1, remains favored as UE will play minus reserves center Paul Lingan, who will serve a one-game suspension for his involvement in a recent scuffle.

La Salle, which wrested up tied with UE and University of Santo Tomas at 4-3, aims to rebound against Adamson in the first game at 2 p.m.

Lingan was thrown out along with FEU's Bal Corvetten in the game won by the Tamaraws, 78-72, last Sunday. An ejection averts an automatic suspension.

"I hope his absence will motivate the team and allow the other players to show their real potential," said coach Lawrence Chongson.

The burly 6-foot-8 Lingan ranked fourth overall in the league after averaging 14.9 points and nine rebounds in the first rebound.

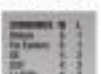
"We want to stay positive and keep working hard," said Chongson, who's also counting on Paul Lee and Elmer Espiritu. "I know we could have done better. I'm not yet satisfied with our performance in the first round."

Reigning Most Valuable Player Rabeh Al-Hussaini will return to action after sustaining a sprained ankle during the Eagles' overtime triumph, 76-71, against the Archers.

"We'll try to keep the players healthy and fresh, and hopefully we'll also continue to play good defense," said Black.

In their first encounter, the defending champion Eagles rallied from 17 points down before cracking the Warriors at 72-57.

The cooler-laden Archers similarly struggled against the Tigresses before eking out a 64-63 overtime escape early in the first round.



SBP makes formal bid to stage Fiba Asia

By Jun Navarro

SEEING HOMETOWN ADVANTAGE IN the 2013 Fiba Asia Championship, the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas has formalized its bid to host in Manila the continental qualifying tournament for the 2012 London Olympics.

SBP executive director Noli Eala presented the entries prepared in Fiba Asia president Sheikh Saud Bin Ali Al-Thani yesterday accompanied by Smart Gilas project director Richard Bachmann and SBP official Bernie Atienza.

"Everybody is supportive of our bid," said Eala, who met with Al-Thani Monday in the opening Fiba Asia Championships in Tianjin, China.

"It seems the Philippines has a very good chance of securing the hosting. In fact, there are already some committees which have been crafted out," he added.

Recording in Fiba Tehran Trend and Lebanon were stricken off the list due to the political turmoil in the countries.

The last time Manila hosted the Fiba Asia, which was then known as the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC), was in 1973 where the Philippines emerged as the champion over South Korea.

"It's nearly 40 years since we last hosted the men's championship and Fiba Asia officials also feel that it's about time for the Philippines to again play host," said Eala.

ARELLANO'S Ivan Cruz re goes rakes for a rebo by Angeles U's Jederson Dumlao.

Arellano whips AUF; Perpetual crushes EAC 5

By Cedell P. Tupas

DIMINUTIVE GUARD LEONARD "SINBOY" Angullo stood out for Arellano University yesterday as the Chiefs thumped Angeles University Foundation, 96-77, in the 85th NCAA men's basketball tournament at the FEOM Plying'G Arena in San Juan.

Angullo, the league's shortest player at 5-foot-1, ventured a career-best 20 points, 12 coming in the second half, to power Arellano to its seventh straight victory and fourth overall in eight games.

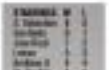
"We really needed this win," said coach Jimjie Ables of Arellano, which matched past St. Benilde for fifth place.

"It just so is a good position when we make a push for a place in the Final Four in the second round."

For her, veteran Nor Salanga and rookie Chris Ebuen knocked in crucial baskets in the stretch to help Perpetual skip over-some a stubborn Emilio Aguinaldo College squad, 86-79.

Ebuen took charge with 19 points and four rebounds the Altas ended the first round with their third win against five defeats.

In another game, Perpetual Help dubbed EAC, 120-62, for its fifth win in nine outings, while Arellano overhauled AUF, 82-64, to enhance its own Final Four campaign to improve to 2-0.



Boxing report from Hemingway's Havana

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

ED PICSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, left for Cuba last week to put in place the training of Filipino boxers who travelled to Havana in two batches.

From the group will be selected four or five of the best who will proceed to Milan later this month to compete in the World Amateur Boxing Championships.

It could not be immediately determined how our boxers, led by two-time Olympian Harry Tañamor, a gold medalist in the last World Cup, would fare in the Milan tournament.

In fact, Picson reported that he initially got nonplussed by comments, caveat-laden, before being ratified in by the Hemingway mania, which reportedly has some high around the world dazing the last in the anniversary of the revered American: Nobel prize novelist on July 21.

At least one over-adventurous tourist was killed during the running of the bulls in Pamplona, a rite of manhood said to the whole world in Hemingway's The Sun Also Rises.

Here's Picson doing a Hemingway Sans Hemina, Viejo.

* * *

It took us 37 hours to get here but the in-flight food was good. Here in Havana, it's also not bad. The place is a throwback to the 50s. Old cars, old houses and buildings, old people. But the important thing is they've got good opportunities for training.

Training started today, Monday, and luckily there are several countries that also came to train here. The British were here last week, the French just left today, the Venezuelans are excited to spar with us. The Brazilians are scheduled to come in Friday.

The boys had sparred today with the Cuban national team and the Venezuelans and it was freely home of them really got into it but I am proud to say our boys held their own even when paired against bigger opponents. Hardly of exception are Rey Saludar, Jorgie Ladon and Gerson Nieves.

The others were also good.

* * *

The Cuban coaches were impressed, including Honorio Jiminez, who is part of the national coaches team again. We much regards to Tito Gonzalez and other Filipino friends.

Yesterday, I took the boys out to have Mass at an old church in Havana. Hoja—the Virgen de la Merced. It's in a place where the nuns where Ernest Hemingway used to chill out. Grado Pio Gaspi and I checked the tavern out—there was a long line of tourists...but the priest went way out of our budget. So we settled for another place where our driver said Hemingway hang out near the beach. There was a bust of Hemingway and we had lunch in a place which looked like it was built only 10 years ago. But our driver insisted Hemingway was a regular customer there. I thought it best not to belabor the point.

* * *

It's quite expensive here, my latest sources (this morning) cost me all of 30 CUC (about $41) supposedly for 30 minutes, only 3 minutes of which was actually online.

From the fast-past service here in the embassy is died up.

The Philippine Embassy has promised to help us with the hotel arrangements in Italy.

He have to be back in the hotel for the afternoon training. Will try to update you soon as I get the opportunity.

Best regards.

2 crack RP teams in billiards World Cup

By Cedell P. Tupas

EFREN "BATA" REYES AND DANIEL BUSCAMONTE will try to duplicate their sweeping run three years ago when they join forces again for the Partypoker.net World Cup of Pool from Sept. 1 to 6 at the SM North Edsa Annex in Quezon City.

With the Philippines gaining the privilege of fielding two teams in the four-nation, double-world pool championship, former 14-time and multi-titled Filipino tandem have been tapped as how the other RP duo in the 32-nation, 64-player tournament, staking a $68,000 top prize from a total pot.

"I think we have a good chance that a Philippine team will win it this year," Reyes said in Filipino at the launch of the event at the Solaire Gaming Tower in Makati yesterday.

"But this kind of tournament is difficult to predict because some of the strongest teams may not do well and the perceived weak teams may play really well."

Reyes and Buscamonte ruled the inaugural edition of this event in 2006 in Newport, England, where they beat Americans Earl Strickland and Rodney Morris.

"The key is really learning to your teammate," added Reyes.

Tournament believes defending champion United States and Chinese Taipei have as hot favorites aside from the two RP teams. Morris and Shane Van Boening of the US were the owners last year in The Netherlands.

SPORTSWATCH

Highlands Cup to benefit youth

THE FOURTH HIGHLANDS LADIES CUP RYDER-CUP TAKE-OFF will not only be a clash for golfing supremacy among the competing field but will also serve as a fund-raiser for the children of Mary boys and girls home under in Silang, Cavite.

The organizing Tagaytay Highlands Ladies Chapter is allotting part of the proceeds for the team contest as part of its continuing commitment to help the underprivileged youths fulfill their dreams.

The 36-hole tournament features the country's top golfing lady amateurs and professionals who will vie for their spots in the Tagaytay Highlands Golf and Country Club. Leading the ceremonial tee-off at 7 a.m. are Tagaytay Highlands president Jimi Tiu, vice chair Willy Ocier, CEO Mariano Lacson, president Felix Ang, Filipinas Shell chair and president Edgar Chua and treasurer chairperson Marilyn Pastor.

Equestrian polls deferred

By Jane Navarro

THE EQUESTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines has canceled the election yesterday (Thursday) over "buying" Quinagoran Jr. and party-list representative Carlos Cuenca after the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) failed to send an observer to the polls scheduled today.

Cuenca, whose earlier election as EAP president was acknowledged then set aside by the FEI to preserve the seat for the new polls, said she received a notice from the world governing body explaining that it has yet to find an appropriate attendee to discharge a representative.

A party for representative and former equestrienne, Cuenca said no date for the polls has been set even as she admitted that both contending groups were still in the process of coming up with the official list of voters.

"We would defer holding the election until the FEI observer finds a suitable date to come over," said Cuenca in a text message.

JINGPING

Chinese coaches boost SEAG campaign

By Mycong B. Cuenco

TIANJIN, CHINA—THE PHILIPpines will avail of China's sports expertise to boost its campaign in the 25th Southeast Asian Games in Vientiane, Laos this December.

Chinese coaches will help the RP here to hone five events under an agreement finalized by Philippine Sports Commission chair Harry Angping with the China Sports Ministry Tuesday afternoon.

It has yet to be finalized, however, whether the Chinese coaches in diving, table tennis, badminton, volleyball and shooting will unite RP athletes in the Philippines or in China.

Angping admits that the team would still prefer to be at little base.

"If these were the last games, we are going to train here (there)," Angping said. "But we have to try it just the same."

Samson fund-raising golf at Veterans

ERIC SAMSON, SON OF THE LATE FORMER GILOCOAN MAYOR MATIAS Samson, hosts a fund-raising golf tournament tomorrow at the Veterans Golf Club in Quezon City. The depressed areas of Dagat-Dagatan are the main beneficiaries. Tickets are priced at P1,800, inclusive of dinner and raffle entries.

SPORTS

RP scrambles past Kuwait

Guiao unimpressed: 'Our worst game in terms of effort'

By Mayong R. Castillo

DAEJEON, CHINA—THIS WAS ONE TIME when winning felt like losing.

Fresh-faced Filipinos struggled past lowly Kuwait, 69-71, Wednesday morning but coach Tony Guiao was the first pleased as the Filipinos formalized their entry in the fourth-out quarterfinal phase of the Fiba-Asia qualifying for next year's World Championships.

"I am very disappointed even if we won," the firebrand mentor added. "This is our worst game in terms of the effort we put in (in the game). I don't think this is the best way to set up for a quarterfinal game."

The Filipinos were in command all game but simply couldn't blow out their rusty opponent, thanks first, who were down to their fifth stringer here.

They actually needed one big kick in the third period to build a comfortable buffer before scrambling in their fourth win in six games overall at the Daejeon gym here.

Lowest

"We're just hoping that this is the lowest it could get, because we need all the intensity we can get for our next game."

Up next for the Filipinos is Jordan, the team that tipped them apart in the Asian Cup. China defeated Jordan, 89-85, here Wednesday night.

Al Jarallah scored 28 points and grabbed 16 rebounds to lead China to the victory. The Chinese topped Group E while Jordan finished second to set up the Friday quarterfinal showdown against the Filipinos.

"We will prepare for the Jordanians (on Thursday)," Guiao said.

The Philippines took a 19-point lead in the third period and saw that bulge cut down to as few as nine as the Filipinos played with just a shade of the hunger and intensity they displayed in their first five games.

"We did not play hard today," forward Ronjay Buenafede said after shooting 10 points and grabbing three rebounds but no fouling out. "We're not happy with the way we played. But it will not happen again."

Ato Tenorio started out at center and scored 10 of his 12 points in the first period. He also came on to grab 10 boards.

Top scorer

Cyrus Baguio scored 14 points to lead all Philippine shooters, while Jared Dillinger also hitting 10 in his best offensive game in the tournament. Guiao vowed corner Mike Fermin, who is still nursing an aching back.

Guiao was upset because two small forwards—Ali Jose Z. Rashed Alsahab and A. Fawzi Mohamad Alfuzaimi—were able to hit 10-inch Shane Sasso chipped in with 12 for Kuwait.

Meanwhile—not that the Philippines has given any hope of bagging a top three slot—Sanzhiang Basketball Association executive director Nelli Gale said that the organizing Fiba might give out consolation prizes of sorts to those who finish fourth and fifth.

According to Gale, a former PBA commissioner, a Fiba official told him Wednesday during the game that the organization is seriously considering giving out spots to the fourth and fifth players here.

Those who bag those slots would advance to a separate qualifier where they will be paired with eight other teams coming from four other continental bests all over the globe. From there, four slots to Istanbul, Turkey will be up for grabs.

The Philippines has secured at least eighth place in this tournament, with one victory in the quarterfinals assuring the squad of at least fourth spot. A loss on Friday against would put the Filipinos in a consolation round battle with fifth spot as stakes.

"That's already an achievement in itself," Guiao said, referring to eighth place. "But we are prepared to push this as far as we can. Things can happen and we'll be there."

"We would need a miracle to pull it off, but we're not giving up."

The scores

PHILIPPINES 69 (Baguio 14, Ianiro 0, Dillinger 10, Yeo 0, Ingle 9, Barkley 8, Nieto 0, Reyes 2, Fermin 2, Ildefonso 2, Allen 0)

KUWAIT 71—Al-Jarallah 28, Alshemali 10, Saad 0, Eisha 3, Shared 3, Shared 3, Alfuzaimi 2, Alsaeed 7, Jamal 15. Quarters: 11-15, 40-28, 60-61, 69-71

Nationals 'disappoint' gamblers

By Mayong R. Castillo

DAEJEON, CHINA—THERE REALLY IS no question mass among gamblers.

At a time when the country is supposed to be united into achieving a common goal—to win as many games as possible and land a place in the World Championship—gambling fools back home are not even giving the Philippine team a fair chance to win.

In the game against Japan, reports that reached team officials here said that bettors have given the country odds of plus-5, meaning they expected the Filipinos to lose by at least six points.

Against Chinese-Taipei on Monday, same text messages said that the odds were plus-2 against the Filipinos. And those who bet against the Philippines in those games surely lost a lot of money, because the Nationals didn't even come close to both matches.

Aplus METRO
Editor Alexander S. Lumicao
Mobile line: Sun/GS/SUN 0920/0918/0922/0923/0925/0926/0927/0928/0929/0930/0931/0932/0933/0934/0935/0936/0937/0938/0939/0940/0941/0942/0943/0944/0945/0946/0947/0948/0949/0950/0951/0952/0953/0954/0955/0956/0957/0958/0959/0960/0961/0962/0963/0964/0965/0966/0967/0968/0969/0970/0971/0972/0973/0974/0975/0976/0977/0978/0979/0980/0981/0982/0983/0984/0985/0986/0987/0988/0989/0990/0991/0992/0993/0994/0995/0996/0997/0998/0999 sms to 2332 for Globe | Smart/PLDT/Sun 0908/0909/0910/0911/0912/0913/0914/0915/0916/0917/0918/0919/0920/0921/0922/0923/0924/0925/0926/0927/0928/0929/0930/0931/0932/0933/0934/0935/0936/0937/0938/0939/0940/0941/0942/0943/0944/0945/0946/0947/0948/0949/0950/0951/0952/0953/0954/0955/0956/0957/0958/0959/0960/0961/0962/0963/0964/0965/0966/0967/0968/0969/0970/0971/0972/0973/0974/0975/0976/0977/0978/0979/0980/0981/0982/0983/0984/0985/0986/0987/0988/0989/0990/0991/0992/0993/0994/0995/0996/0997/0998/0999 sms to Smart | E-mail us: metro@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/metro

DID YOU KNOW

IN JULY 1964, an 80-hectare woodland in Quezon City was converted into a wildlife center which featured specimens of the country's flora and fauna, a main model lagoon and a children's playground. In March 1986, it was named the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center.
QUIZ, Bandanda, Inquirer Research

Mang INASAL

The Next Big Thing in the Philippine Fastfood Industry!
www.manginasal.com
VISIT US at the BOOTH NO. 111 - 112
September 4 - 6, 2009
WORLD TRADE CENTER METRO MANILA
Association of Filipino Franchisers, Inc.

DEPARTED at the Manila City Jail line-up Wednesday for the on-site voters' registration for the 2010 national elections. GERVACIO

Manila inmates get right to vote anew

300 join registration at City Jail

By Tina G. Santos

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY years, Benjamin de Jesus will again be able to exercise his right to vote despite being behind bars.

De Jesus, who has been detained for more than 13 years on kidnapping charges, was one of the 300 prisoners who participated in the voters' registration conducted by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) at the Manila City Jail yesterday.

"I'm happy because they allowed us to exercise our right. It makes me feel that I'm still part of society," De Jesus said in Filipino.

He told the reporters that the last time he voted, Ferdinand Marcos was still president. She was referring to 1986 when Corazon C. Aquino was elected president.

"This is consistent with the political rights of detainees to register and vote in the May 2010 elections," said lawyer Evarix Collins, executive assistant of Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmiento.

PAGE A-14

Now, it was Aquinos' turn to condole with the Binays

By Allison W. Lopez

THOSE WITH FLOWERS reversed, it was the Aquinos' turn to grieve with the family of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, whose daughter-in-law passed away the other day after a difficult pregnancy.

Recently Ann Lucia, 29-year-old wife of Makati Councilor Jejomar Erwin "Junjun" Binay, was also confined for a month on the same hospital floor where the late President Corazon "Cory" Aquino, then battling colon cancer, stayed before she died on Aug. 1.

A former actress and commercial model, Lucia died of cardiac arrest and massive bleeding after giving birth to her fourth child, whose condition is still being monitored in Makati Medical Center.

Death talk

"She started talking about death in a casual tone when Cory died. Eun nagbibiro na sana, nagbibiro. Ilike kasi sa her performance, in a joking manner) that her cadlia should be in a goldish box, and that we should play Days until the Lord wants it her wake. So that's what we did," said Hazel Ann Lucia, Recently's younger sister.

Shortly after the body of Kennedy was wheeled to their home in Makati City past 9 p.m. Tuesday, Cory's daughters Ballsy, Pinky and Shi were seen sympathizing with the Binays.

"It's (another) Aquino daughter," greeted several onlookers from her TV show. She gave a cool salute she expressed her condolences, saying she felt our pain," added Hazel Ann.

She said Ria related to her sister's condition because her mother also had "placenta previa" (low-lying placenta) while being pregnant with her.

Opposition figures

As Recently's wake progressed, opposition figures like former Senate President Franklin Drilon, Bayan secretary General Renato Reyes and lawyer Harry Roque were gathered, this time to mourn with the elder Binay, president of the United Opposition.

Binay had profusely thanked the late President for appointing him as the first local official in 1986, during martial-rule services held in her honor.

"We're surprised about the arrival of many visitors, like Sen Jinn Mayor JV Ejercito and Susan Roces. We're very thankful," Hazel Ann said.

Dozens of flower arrangements sent by personalities and groups surrounded the couple's newly built house in San Antonio Village.

The young couple first met at a wake of Lucia's grandfather in 1998.

"Junjun was already a councilor then. He came to our grandfather's wake at Pio del Pilar barangay hall in Makati," recalled Hazel Ann. "He went through all the courtship rituals. Motorsiklo nga lamit kan pag hatodan ti ato sa Berkeley, hatodahan din siya ni nakaraod nga bodyguard nya (It was an amusing sight. My older sister would hatod while in Berkeley church, and he would do the same, followed by his 'bodyguards')."

Despite contrasting personalities, Kennedy and Junjun hit it off and were married in civil ceremonies in 2002. They had a church wedding four years later.

"I remember that I talked to Junjun about the church requirements. My wedding and his were just days apart," said Bayani's Reyes.

"Kennedy was always there during the Ayala rallies and was a very active participant," he added.

Still in shock

Hazel Ann said they were still in shock over her sister's death since they had been more worried about her baby girl, who was delivered only after seven months.

"My sister had been crying in the hospital and said she wasn't ready to give birth yet. She was afraid for the baby because it was not yet her time. But they had to perform an emergency operation since she was bleeding," the said.

"They already picked a name for the baby—Adrianna—but my sister said that if she died, her baby should be named after her. So the was christened Maria Kennedy," said Hazel Ann.

Kennedy even wanted to have twins in five years because she wanted more kids, according to her sister.

Apart from her husband, Junjun, Kennedy left behind three children—Jejomar Aloni, 6, Maria Isabel, 3, and Jejomar III, 1.

MyVote.MyTurn.

HOW I WILL DECIDE

The Inquirer keeps me informed. The 2010 election is really about _____ (KEY TOPIC/S).

Our next president needs to be someone capable of _____ (CHARACTER TRAIT) like _____ (POLITICAL HERO), and not capable of _____ (POLITICAL SCANDAL).

No one knows for sure what will happen. But I will make my vote happen.

NAME
ADDRESS
E-MAIL OR TEL. NO.:
GENDER AGE

Fill out. Clip. Send to 2010electionsinquirer.com.ph. Fax to 897 4011.
Or send SMS: Type 2010 <Name/Address/Key Topic/Character Trait/Political Hero/Political Scandal> and send to 0918 898 5566.

INQUIRER

Monthly, our Research Department will collate the results which will be posted in the Inquirer. Entries filled with good thinking/creative ideas/innovative approach/ provocative opinion will receive surprise prizes.

GET UNRELENTING POWER IN YOUR DRIVE.
GO FOR PETRON XCS WITH 95 OCTANE RATING.
PETRON XCS
PETRON

2 Manila cops charged with death of boy

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INvestigation has charged two policemen in connection with the death of a 15-year-old boy whom they arrested for an undisclosed offense three months ago in Binondo, Manila.

Charged with murder at the Department of Justice were Police Officer 2 Arnel Bobbell, 29, and Police Officer 1 Dionee Hizon, 28, both assigned in Investigation Section 2, Belgian Outpost No. 4, Manila Police District Station 3.

According to the NBI Special Task Force, the case stemmed from the complaint filed by one Ignacio Hayahay Sr. of Parola Compound, Binondo, and father of victim Rolly Hayahay.

Witness Arjay Zapata, 24, a tricycle driver, told NBI that around 11 p.m. last May 5, while he was waiting for passengers, he heard two gunshots.

A few seconds later, Zapata said he saw the victim and one other Mandaluyong being chased by the policemen. Subsequently, the policemen managed to arrest the victim, whose hands were handcuffed at the back. Zapata added that one of the policemen was pulling the victim's hair.

Together with the victim, the suspects boarded the police vehicle and sped away, the witness said. He added that he recognized the suspects, who were both clad in police uniforms, as those assigned at the nearby police outpost and were frequently conducting patrol operations in the area.

Another witness, Roy Albert Ramota, told NBI that while he was having a conversation with friends, the victim suddenly appeared, asked for help and claimed that he was being chased and shot by the suspects.

Ramota said he tried to comfort the victim who was already bleeding from a gunshot wound on the chest. But soon after, the suspects came and arrested the victim.

Ramota added he appealed to the suspects to bring the victim to the hospital, but was told not to interfere. He said the suspects even cursed and threatened to shoot him.

The victim's father claimed that the suspects took his son to the hospital more than two hours after the incident.

The victim, who sustained multiple gunshot wounds, was declared dead on arrival at the Gen. Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center.

Lawyer Abdul Jamal Dimaporo, en cute investigator, said the policemen were subpoenaed to appear at the bureau to explain their side. But according to their counsel, Michael Chris Bocanil, his clients will now present their counter-affidavit before the Office of the Prosecutor in due time.

BEAUTIFICATION DRIVE
Workers of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) paint a bridge Wednesday as part of its beautification program.

METRO BRIEFS

Free eye operation in Taguig

RESIDENTS in Taguig City who have eye cataracts may avail themselves of free operations and reading glasses as part of the city government's celebration of National Sight-Saving Month. The operations will be performed by ophthalmologists from major Metro Manila hospitals from Aug. 10 to 21 at the Taguig City Hospital in Barangay Western Bicutan. "Cataracts can be easily corrected with operation and proper medication. Unfortunately, many cannot afford this procedure. So, we believe this program will be beneficial to our indigent cataract patients," Mayor Freddie Tiglao said.

Alfonso M. Lazo

Liberian arrested for fraud

A LIBERIAN nationwas later charmed to be a dealer of diamonds and gold bars was arrested in an anti-syndicate operation on Tuesday after he allegedly duped a Korean businessman of P1.5 million in cash. Supt. Rolando Golla, head of the Quezon City Police District's general investigation section, identified the Liberian as Robert Vhye, 31, who gave his address as Molino, Cavite. Police said Vhye was arrested in the office of his victim, Kim Kyung Soo, 44, a Korean who also traded secondhand buses. Police said Vhye and another Liberian visited Kim if they could rent a room to keep a metal box containing about P5-million worth of valuables. Three days later, the two Liberians went to the victim's office carrying a steel box which supposedly contained cash and diamonds. In exchange for letting him keep the box in his vault, Soo said the two asked him to lend them P1.5 million in cash. He later found out that the box contained only pieces of paper.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Hunt on for 2 gang members

THE POLICE said yesterday that they were looking for two more suspected members of the hit-and-run Vanguard gang who last week murdered five members of a rival group in an ambush in Cubao. Chief Supt. Daniel Togonon Pagdilao Jr. said only one of the two men has been identified as he is the Force Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Face) who leading the operation to track down the killers. On Monday, two suspected members of the group were killed by policemen while allegedly rescued Chinese-Filipino businessman Michelle Tan, 38, in Taytay, Rizal. The next day, five other gang members were killed in a shootout with policemen in Caloocan City.

DJ Yap

PCGG might go slow on Marcos wealth

MALACAÑANG'S CONTRADICTED refusal to apologize for the $220,000 dinner of President Gloria and her entourage at the Disney Resort in New York shows GMA's failure.

To Mr Arroyo, she can do no wrong since she's the country's chief executive.

As such, she's entitled to all luxuries befitting her office, such as dining in an expensive restaurant.

If millions of Mr Arroyo's subjects are suffering from hunger, that's just too bad since it's not for her that they're poor.

You can't blame Ang Ehe Ni's outspoken secretary who she got from her favoritemen-hatchet, Mike Arroyo.

* * *

Even if the expensive dinner (equivalent to nearly P1 million) was paid for by the US-based brother of Layle Rep. Martin Romualdez, it still didn't look good.

If such is the case, then we have a freeloading President.

* * *

Rep. Teodoro Casiño of the militant party list group Bayan raised a valid issue on GMA's free dinner courtesy of Daniel Romualdez, nephew of his lovely Mayor.

"The President, of all people, should know that the Romualdezes are not ordinary people. They have a stake in the ill-gotten wealth held by the government, and for a long time, Imelda has been negotiating for a settlement," Casiño said.

So, don't be surprised if the Romualdezes and Marcoses will soon get back all their ill-gotten/ill-gotten property holdings from the Presidential Commission on Good Government in return for their P1 million dinner.

* * *

Sen. Nereyo Aquino is not interested in running either for president or vice president.

At the moment.

Let's give him space and time to recover from grieving over his mother's death.

If he decides to run for either office, it's vote for him. He will surely become an honest president like his mom Cory.

After all, a change that doesn't bear a name/Noy, as an old Filipino saying goes.

* * *

Businessmen Manuel Pangilinan and Ramon Ang are reportedly in talks to acquire the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) from Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC).

Pangilinan is the chairman of MPIC, while Ang is the president and chief operating officer of San Miguel Corp. (SMC).

Both companies are controlled by Manuel V. Pangilinan.

Ang is also the president of Ginebra San Miguel Inc. (GSMI), which is 49.5 percent owned by SMC.

Pangilinan and Ang are also the chairman and president of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), respectively.

Meralco is 20.4 percent owned by PLDT.

* * *

US official gropes to explain Hillary outburst

WASHINGTON—THE DEPARTMENT of State struggled on Tuesday to explain US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's **face-off with a Congolese** student and suggested that the questioner's nervousness sparked the outburst with the mention of her husband's name.

Clinton snapped at the university student in Kinshasa on Monday when he asked what her husband, former President Bill Clinton, and Congo native **and former NBA star Dikembe** Mutombo thought about an international financial matter. Mutombo was appearing with her at the university.

"Wait. You want me to tell you what my husband thinks?" Clinton asked in response. "My husband is not the economy of this; I am. So you ask my opinion, I will tell you my opinion. I'm not going to be channeling my husband."

State department spokesperson P.J. Crowley said on Tuesday that Clinton reacted that way because of the question.

"So the question was posed to her, it was posed in a way that said, 'I want to get the views of two men, but not you, the secretary of state,'" Crowley said.

The French-speaking student later said he had meant to say President Barack Obama, according to US officials traveling with Clinton. It was unclear whether that meant the student misspoke or the translator erred.

Crowley said Clinton was responding to the student's nervousness when she asked him the question.

Asked if Clinton had any regrets about losing her cool, Crowley tried to defend the questioner, saying she was not available to get her thoughts. At the time, Clinton was en route between stops during her 10-day tour in Africa, and she did not address the outburst in **responses traveling with her in** the Congo.

Clinton's trip was overshadowed at the start by her husband's secret diplomatic mission to North Korea, where President Kim Jong-il turned over two US journalists who had been held after straying across the border.

Wednesday found Clinton at the Nigerian capital pressing the government of Africa's most populous nation to curb widespread corruption and ensure democratic reforms.

Clinton was scheduled to meet with Nigerian officials to urge the major oil-producing nation, known as one of the most corrupt countries in Africa, to do more to tackle graft.

She will also meet religious leaders to discuss recent violence, sparked by the killing of the head of an Islamic sect, that left more than 700 people dead in the mainly Muslim north.

Nigeria is the 80th country that Clinton has visited as far as a seven-nation tour of Africa aimed at promoting development and good governance. She will travel next to Liberia and Cape Verde. AP

US SECRETARY of State Hillary Clinton joins a UN patrol on foot and staff of a Host Africa clinic in Goma, Congo, on Tuesday. AP

Murder for ratings? Cops suspect TV host

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—IN ONE murder after another, the "Canal Livre" crime TV show **had an uncanny knack for being** first on the scene, gathering **graphic footage of the victims.**

Yet uncanny, say police, who are investigating the show's boss, state legislator Wallace Souza, on suspicion of conspiring to lure five of the murders to boost his ratings and prove his claim that Brazil's **Amazon region is awash in vio**lent crime. Police also froze assets of dozens of drug trafficking.

"The order to murder always came from the legislator and his son, who then alerted the TV crews to get to the scene before the police," state police intelligence chief Thomaz Vasconcelos charged in an interview.

The killings of competing drug traffickers, he said, "appear to have been committed to get rid of his rivals and increase the audience of the TV show."

Souza denied all the criminal allegations and called them absurd, insisting that he and his son are being set up by political enemies and drug dealers angry at his **own decades of relentless crime** coverage on TV and crusading legislative probes.

"I was the one who organized legislative inquiries into organized crime, the prison system, corruption, drug trafficking, by police and paedophiles," Souza said in an interview.

Souza's lawyer, Francisco **Ballester, said that the only rel**ease was a disgraced police officer hoping for leniency in nine murders he was charged with.

"There is not one piece of material proof in these accusations," Ballester said.

Vasconcelos said the accusations, which had made headlines in Brazil, stemmed from the testimony of several former employees and security guards who worked with the Souzas, allegedly as part of a gang of former police officers involved in drug trafficking.

Souza's son, Mahel, has been jailed on charges of homicide, drug trafficking and illegal gun possession.

Police said Wallace Souza faced charges of drug trafficking, gang formation and weapons possession, but bail was later granted with any killings.

Souza remains free because of legislative immunity that prevents him from being arrested so long as he is a lawmaker. He is being investigated by a special task force, and state judicial authorities will decide whether the case goes forward.

Vasconcelos said the crimes appeared to have served the Souzas in two ways. They eliminated drug-trafficking rivals, and they boosted ratings.

"We believe that they organized a kind of death squad to eliminate rivals who disputed with them the drug trafficking business," he said. Souza, he charged, "would eliminate his rival and use the killing as a news story in his program."

Souza became a media personality after a career as a police officer that ended in disgrace, according to Vasconcelos, who said the lawmaker was fired for insubordination in cases involving theft and possible fraud.

Souza climbed those rungs, Vasconcelos said, by using his post to leave the force in 1987 after being wrongly accused of involvement in a college entrance exam fraud scheme that he was investigating.

He started "Canal Livre" two years later on a local commercial station in Belem, the capital of Brazil's largely lawless Amazonian state. It became extremely popular among Brazzaco 1.7 million residents before going off the air late last year as police intensified their investigation.

The show featured Souza, in a studio, talking against a run-past crime in the state, punctuated with often-radiative footage of arrests, crime scenes and drug seizures. AP

STATE LEGISLATOR and TV host Wallace Souza denies police charges he had ordered five killings to boost his show's ratings. AP

US Marines assault Taliban stronghold in Afghanistan

HANWAH, AFGHANISTAN—Helicopter-borne US Marines backed by Harrier jets stormed a Taliban hold-town in southern Afghanistan before dawn on Wednesday in an operation to secure the country ahead of presidential elections.

The troops unchanged heavy fire with insurgents, killing at least seven. Journalists traveling with the first wave said militants fired small arms, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades after helicopters dropped the troops near Taliban town.

Fighting lasted more than eight hours, as Harrier jets circled overhead and dropped flares in a show of force.

The Taliban put up such fierce resistance that Marines said they suspected the militants knew the assault was coming.

Other Marines met heavy resistance as they fought to seize control of the mountains surrounding Dahaneh in the south's Helmand province. As other convoys of Marines rolled into the town despite roadside bomb attacks and gunfire.

It was the first time Navy troops had entered Dahaneh, which has been under Taliban control for years.

US, Nato and Afghan troops are working to protect voting sites around the country as Afghans can take part in the country's second-ever direct presidential election on Aug. 20. Taliban militants have vowed to disrupt the elections, and attacks are on the rise.

Marines said they killed between 7 and 15 militants on Wednesday's push and seized about 10 kilograms of opium, which the militants use to finance their insurgency. Troops hope to restore control of the town so that residents can vote in the election.

The new offensive, named "Khyber Strike 2," is designed to break the months-long stalemate in this southern valley where the Taliban are solidly entrenched. By occupying Dahaneh, the Marines hope to isolate insurgents in western and mountainous, away from civilian centers. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

Twitter CEO's wife tweets delivery

WEBSITE TOO—The supposed wife of Twitter chief executive Evan Williams delivered updates on the delivery of their son on Tuesday using the micro-blogging service cofounded by her husband. "Jesse Twitter. My water broke. It wasn't like it was in the movies. Lots of screaming and contractions on and Phone app," Sara Mesenrope Williams wrote late Monday on her Twitter feed Ehana. "The Contraction Timer was fun until the contractions got painful," she informed her more than 14,500 followers about an hour later. "Intended to hospital. Got the second-to-last room," she "tweeted" early Tuesday, followed several minutes later by "Epidural. Yes please." Twitter is a free social networking request for publishers, she wrote. "The Inauguural marathon handles the absence of a name that will shortly be anything but silent." Her husband then took over on his Twitter feed Ehn. "Operation Baby Launch continues on track, though a bit too steady in my opinion. That's usually the case with big launches though," he said. That was followed several hours later by another message announcing the delivery. "Yes! Ehana goes forth to a perfect baby boy. Ebeh sits well. 8 pounds, 21 inches! Smiles of all around," it said. The couple live in San Francisco. It's their first child. AFP

What's hot with kids online?

SAN FRANCISCO—Children are searching online for videos, social networks, games and, yes, porn as they grow up in an Internet age, according to computer security firm Symantec. The firm released on Tuesday a list of the Top 100 searches conducted by children across the Internet in the first half of 2009 in an effort to help parents track their offsprings' Internet activities. The most popular search term was Google-owned video-sharing hotspot YouTube, where children go for endless ranging from Japanese anime and silly viral videos to dance routines and help with math homework. AFP

Khmer torturer wants 'harshest punishment'

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA—The former chief of the Khmer Rouge's main torture centre, being tried by a UN-backed tribunal on genocide charges, asked the Cambodian people on Wednesday to give him "the harshest punishment."

The self-confessed killer, Kaing Guek Eav, who headed the notorious S-21 prison in Phnom Penh, came as a widow wept before the court, demanding justice for the death of her husband and four children during the communist regime's reign of terror.

"I accept the regret, the sorrow and the suffering of the million Cambodian people who lost their husbands and wives," the defendant told the tribunal. "I would like the Cambodian people to condemn me to the harshest punishment."

Kaing Guek Eav—better known as Duch—is being tried for crimes against humanity, war crimes, murder and torture. Up to 16,000 people were tortured under his command and later killed during the Khmer Rouge's 1975-1979 rule. Only a handful survived.

Duch (pronounced DOIK) later became an evangelical Christian and worked for international aid organizations after the ouster of the Khmer Rouge regime.

He noted on Wednesday that Jesus Christ was tortured before his death by crucifixion.

"If Cambodians followed this traditional punishment, they could do that to me. I would accept it," he said.

Duch is the first of five senior Khmer Rouge figures scheduled to face long-delayed trials and the only one to acknowledge responsibility for his actions. His trial, which started in March, is expected to finish by the end of the year.

During Wednesday's court session, Bou Thoti, 64, said her husband was a driver at the Khmer Rouge's Ministry of Industry when he was accused of being a traitor and sent to S-21. He was assigned as a cook.

Her husband and four children vanished, and then Thoti said she believed all were killed at Choeung Ek, better known as the "Killing Fields," outside Phnom Penh where S-21 prisoners were dispatched for executions.

With tears in her eyes, Bou Thoti said she had tried to forgive and forget her enemies.

Duch, asked by the judge to speak about the Khmer Rouge killings, said they were "like the death of an elephant which no one can hide with only two cupped his two knees." AP

A TOURIST views a painting depicting torture during the Khmer Rouge regime at Phnom Penh's S-21 prison, which has been transformed into a museum. AP

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence K. Quesa

Suu Kyi begins house arrest

RANGOON, BURMA—Democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi is back to her spartan existence of early meditation, spy novels and rare chocolate treats as she awoke at her lakeside home on Wednesday to begin serving her latest house arrest, following her globally condemned conviction that lawyers said they would promptly appeal.

The 64-year-old Nobel laureate was confined on Tuesday by a court of ruling junta previous house arrest by allowing an uninvited American who swam to her home to stay for two days. She has already spent 14 of the past 20 years under house arrest—her Tuesday marked her first conviction.

Suu Kyi now begins 18 more months under house arrest behind a new 3-meter-wire fence that was erected at the lakeside entrance to her home in Rangoon (Yangon).

She was initially sentenced to three years in prison with hard labor, but it was quickly commuted to 18 months of house arrest by Senior Gen. Than Shwe, head of the military junta that rules Burma (Myanmar).

Suu Kyi's lawyers said that they would appeal the conviction immediately.

The country's state-run newspapers, which many people normally don't bother to read, were sold out on Wednesday with people eager to learn about the verdict.

"I am not surprised that (than Shi) was sentenced to three years because that is what the government wants to do, keep her locked up during the elections," said Zoe Nyunt, a 34-year-old grocery shop owner.

"It was at least a relief that Daw Suu is kept in her house. I had thought the government would keep her inside Insein prison," said Moe Moe, a 45-year-old school teacher. Daw is a respectful term for a woman.

The defiant Nobel laureate has spent much of the past two decades in virtual isolation at the crumbling family mansion.

Without Internet or telephone access, and with almost no visitors except doctors and lawyers, the increasingly frail Suu Kyi has spent down her days in the basic, according to officials and aides.

"Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gets up early in the morning every day and does the prays," said a security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Then she walks inside the compound and has breakfast, then she reads or goes to read to the plants in the garden. Sometimes she listens to the radio and sometimes she does some yoga," the official said.

Her isolation is deepened by the fact that she has not seen her two sons for around a decade, while she was unable to leave the country when her husband, British academic Michael Aris, died of cancer in 1999.

Her primary source of company since her last period of house arrest began in 2003 has been two female aides, who were both arrested with her in May and given a similar sentence on Tuesday.

Her conviction and continued detention were condemned by world leaders and sparked demonstrations in cities from London to Japan.

The European Union began preparing new sanctions against the country's military regime and a group of 14 Nobel Laureates, including the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, called on the UN Security Council to take strong action against the country.

US President Barack Obama termed the conviction a violation of "the universal principle of human rights" and said Suu Kyi should be released immediately.

US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called for the release of more than 2,000 political prisoners, including John Yettaw, the American who entered Suu Kyi's home. He was also convicted on Tuesday and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment with hard labor.

The 53-year-old Yettaw spent a week in the hospital for epileptic seizures before the verdict. He is also said to suffer from asthma and diabetes.

Stephen Vun, Jun Webb will ever Burma later this week as part of a five-nation Asia tour, prompting some speculation within the diplomatic community that he would try to negotiate Yettaw's handover to the United States...a prospect his lawyer said was unlikely.

Reports from AP and AFP

AT THIS CRUMBLING mansion, Aung San Suu Kyi will be spending another 18 months under house arrest. AFP

DNA shows body of slain militant not Noordin Top

JAKARTA, INDONESIA—Indonesia's most wanted Islamist militant, accused in a string of deadly terror attacks including a bombing in Bali, was not killed in a shootout, last week in initial media reports suggested and he remains at large, police said on Wednesday.

Tests comparing the body's DNA with that of members of Noordin Mohammad Top's family came back negative, said Bibit Saguwedo, head of the national police victim identification unit.

The body was found in Solo that of a Bertin linked to Noordin, who police said was a member of a terrorist cell that led last month's suicide bombings in Jakarta.

Noordin, a Malaysian national, has been blamed for masterminding a series of deadly al-Qaida-linked attacks in Indonesia since 2002 and is a prime suspect in the July 17 hotel attacks that killed seven people.

Last month's strikes ended a four-year lull in terrorist attacks in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation. Bombings have killed more than 250 people in Indonesia since 2002, most of them on the resort island of Bali, where a 2002 attack killed 202 people.

"The DNA test didn't match with Noordin's family," Saguwedo said at a nationally televised press conference on Wednesday.

Local media had reported that Noordin, a well-proclaimed al-Qaida commander who has eluded capture in Indonesia and Malaysia since 2003, was slain in a gun battle with security forces.

But Saguwedo said the man who died in the shootout at a farmhouse in central Java on Saturday was a Bertin, identified only as Ibrahim. AP

ELUSIVE DNA ROPE, a rescuer wears a tire to reach one of Taiwan's villages buried in tons of mud and rubble.

Military rescues 1,000 in 3 devastated villages

CHENGCHING, TAIWAN—RESCUERS HAVE found nearly 1,000 people alive in the area around three remote villages devastated by Typhoon "Morakot," which pummeled the island over the weekend, Taiwan's military said on Wednesday.

Most of the survivors were found on Tuesday, but relief operators spokesperson Maj. Gen. Su Jen-chun said a few dozen more were spotted on Wednesday in Shiao Lin, the tiny community destroyed by a mountain mudslide early Sunday morning.

Army helicopters were ferrying survivors safely to Cishan, the hardscrabble town in the southern county of Kaohsiung that is serving as a final point for relief operations.

However, heavy rains were wreaking havoc with rescue operations and by early afternoon only a few dozen flights had arrived at the makeshift landing zone on the ground of Cishan Junior High School. That compared to more than 100 on Tuesday.

Morakot, which means "emerald" in the Thai language, struck the Philippines, Taiwan and China and left at least 90 people dead, more of them in Taiwan. It dumped as much as two meters of rain on the island before moving on to China, where stubborn rice overcame 1.5 million people and some 10,000 homes were destroyed.

A major concern for relief officials remained Shiao Lin, a village cut off from the outside world since Sunday's mudslides.

Video taken by TV station ETTV showed the village buried in tons of mud and rubble, with only two of its structures left standing. The only sign of life in the village, the ETTV video showed, was a soldier sitting on a truck under the rubble.

Last 20-year-old, 28, who escaped from Shiao Lin shortly after Sunday's mudslide, told The Associated Press that he did not know how many of his fellow villagers remained alive.

He said that between 300 and 400 people were in Shiao Lin at the time of the disaster...far fewer than the 1,500 people local Taiwan's population officials.

Taiwan's National Fire Agency has said 118 people were under the mud in Shiao Lin, but didn't offer any evidence to back up that claim. AP

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Philex buys back stake in exploration subsidiary /B2
■ Aboitiz holding firm books 55% profit jump /B2

Editor Raul C. Marvelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Petron profit down 22% to P1.8B in first half /B3
■ BSP, PDIC see more bank mergers in near term /B4

Faster growth seen in second quarter

AGRICULTURE Secretary Arthur Yap (left) listens intently as Robert Schinkel (right), technology transfer coordinator at the US Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service in Beltsville, Maryland, USA, explains how wastes can be transformed into biofuels using dripping containers. Yap visited the ARS to check available technologies offered by the institution. With them are Philippine Agricultural Development and Commercial Corp. president Maria Aglaia and Agriculturist Amador Yu Lontoc.

Central bank expected to keep rates on hold

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY LIKELY EXPANDED at a faster annual rate in the second quarter than in the first three months of the year, an outgoing senior government official said yesterday, boosting the case for a pause in rate cuts this month.

Official second-quarter growth data are due on Aug. 27, a week after the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reviews its monetary policy.

Most analysts expect the central bank to end a series of rate cuts totalling 2 percentage points since December that took the key overnight borrowing rate to a record low of 4 percent, according to a Reuters poll last month.

"If their expectations and mine as well, are that second-quarter growth will be better, the central bank will likely keep rates on hold and assess the impact of policy rate cuts taken so far," said Luz Lorenzo, economist at ING Bin Ong Securities.

The economy grew 0.4 percent in the first quarter from a year earlier, the weakest annual growth since 1998.

BYTES B2

ABS-CBN profit jumped 21% in Q2

By Miko Morales

ABS-CBN CORP. PUT UP A strong showing in the second quarter, posting a 21-percent jump in net profit despite concerning low subscriptions.

Net income for the April-to-June period jumped to P921 million from P714 million a year ago against a decrease in total revenue to P4.6 billion due to advertising spots.

"If you notice, we're not actually growing in minutes. During the past few years, we did not want to overload," said ABS-CBN vice president for research and business analytics Oliver Tan. "Instead, we [kept] the value of our spots, so even because of the better value for our clients, we have been able to achieve spots at better rates."

Net profit for the first half rose to P913 million, up 8 percent from a year ago following

ABS-CBN B3

SPECIAL RULES PUSHED

Courts hamper anti-piracy drive

By Abigail L. Ito

WHILE ENFORCEMENT OF existing intellectual property laws is fairly satisfactory, the business software alliance is seeking the accelerated use of the issuance of "special rules" for IP cases as this will help curb piracy in the country.

In a briefing yesterday, BSA consultant for the Philippines Bienvenido Marquez III said the group was happy with the way law enforcement operations under the Philippine Anti-Piracy Team (PAPT) were operating.

The problem, he said, was in the prosecution of IP cases filed in court.

"The court system in the Philippines is our issue: that we need to look at. We're now in talks with [the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines] and the Supreme Court. They are in the process of coming up with special rules for IP cases," he said.

"We hope these will be passed late this year or early next year. That is not only for software, but also for other industries, such as movies, music, pharmaceutical and agricultural. These rules aim to address the delaying tactics of defense lawyers when it comes to IP cases," he further said.

For software alone, he said the Philippines' piracy rate was at 69 percent for 2008, the same level it was in 2007.

"Ideally, it needs to be down to drive this rate down even more," he said.

BSA and piracy senior director for Asia Pacific Tarun Sawney said the Philippines had a lower software piracy rate than Vietnam, Indonesia and China, but higher than Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

The biggest challenge for BSA and all other agencies working to curb piracy, he said, was in changing the mindset of consumers regarding the software that they use in their offices.

COURTS B3

Manila Water eyes joint venture with Cebu gov't

By Rica T. Obiedozia

MANILA WATER CO. INC. (MWC) outlined an unsolicited proposal for a joint investment with the provincial government of Cebu for the development and delivery of treated bulk water to the province, the Ayala-led firm said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Under the proposal tabled the Cebu bulk water supply project, Manila Water will deliver 35 million liters a day of potable bulk water sourced from the Lanang River in the municipality of Cannon to meet the growing water supply requirements of several cities and municipalities of Cebu.

The venture will supply Danao, Compostela, Liloan, Consolacion, Mandaue, Lapu-lapu and Cordova. Manila Water said the project supply in the province seeks only half of these areas.

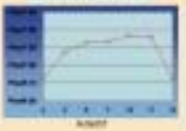
Manila Water said the project does not have a take-or-pay provision, meaning the users will only pay for the water they use, and that all the joint venture's assets will be turned over to the province at the end of the initial 25-year cooperation period.

The project will be implemented under the joint investment guidelines issued by the provincial council of Cebu.

MWC B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

$1 = ₱48.06

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 12, 2009

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

As of 12:30 p.m. (see more data on Page B2)

Stocks down on profit-taking

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.11 PERCENT lower yesterday as investors took their cue from overnight losses on Wall Street and took profits, dealers said.

The composite index shed 32.32 points, or 2.826.32. The all-shares index shed 1.01 percent, or 16.30 points, to 1,764.92.

Around ₱1.19 billion shares worth ₱51.80 billion changed hands.

Decliners led gainers, 67 to 55 while 69 issues closed unchanged.

The peso traded at 47.38 to the dollar in morning trade yesterday.

"We can safely attribute it to the profit-taking," dealer Ilona Jamandre said by text message.

"We saw selling almost across the board, dealer Ilona Jamandre said by text message in the morning. "Value-for-money issues will be turned over to the province at the end of the initial 25-year cooperation period.

The project will be implemented under the joint investment guidelines issued by the provincial council of Cebu.

MARKET B4

Philex buys back stake in exploration subsidiary

By Arry R. Barros

PHILEX MINING CORP., THE COUNTRY'S biggest mining firm, has acquired 345 million shares of Philex Petroleum Corp. from Netherlands-based firm Australian Property Byvest P172 million.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Philex vice president for finance Renato Magsino said the amount was agreed upon by both parties and was payable in cash upon the execution of the closing documents.

"The amount was sourced by the company from its available funds," Magsino said.

These assets the same shares that Philex had sold to Australian Property in June last year for $5.93 million through a share-purchase agreement. Philex had said that the shares were equivalent to 49 percent of the outstanding capital stock of Philex Petroleum.

Weighs options for non-mining operations

Philex Petroleum currently has interests in three exploration projects in northwest Palawan and South Cebu Sea. Its other energy-related investment is in its wholly owned subsidiary Philex Energy and Mining Corp., which is undertaking preliminary development activities in a coal property in Zamboanga.

Philex Petroleum also holds a 1.65 percent stake in Service Contract No. 6 (Camago-Malampaya west Palawan) and 1.67 percent in Service Contract No. 46 (Octon Block in northwest Palawan). The firm likewise owns Coal Operating Contract 139 in Brgy.-Bulubid, South Zamboanga where there is an estimated coal reserve of two million metric tons.

Meanwhile, Magsino disclosed on Tuesday that Philex Mining was studying the possible investments or business options that could enable it to further enhance the strategic value of its oil and gas assets.

Among its latest oil and gas projects included the offshore oil discovery in Malampaya of Philex Petroleum in which Philex Mining is a 21.1-percent shareholder, and the Sampaguita natural gas discovery in the northwest coast of Palawan under GSEC 101, which is pending concession into a service contract for further exploration.

"It is Philex Mining's view that these oil and gas properties have substantial value, the exaggerate of which could justify taking them into a separate initiative from the company's mining ventures which historically have been its core business," Magsino said.

PNOC-EC profit down 26.5% in 1st 6 months

By Arry R. Barros

DUE TO THE DECLINE IN CRUDE OIL prices, PNOC Exploration Corp. said its net income fell 26.5 percent in the first half to P1.08 billion from P1.46 billion a year ago.

PNOC EC, the upstream oil and gas subsidiary of state-owned Philippine National Oil Co., explained that the lower profit could also be attributed to the lower gas offtake, which resulted from a decline in gas and condensate sales and seal testing.

According to documents filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange, the company also incurred weaker sales of its fuel and lubes to foreign vessel customers, which resulted from lower drilling activities conducted by various oil and gas companies this year as compared to 2008.

With the decline in prices of oil starting late last year to the first half of 2009, total revenue dropped to P1.24 billion from the year ago level of P4.25 billion, PNOC-EC said.

Bulk of the first-half revenue or about P1.16 billion came from the Malampaya gas-to-power project under Service Contract 38, where it holds a 28-percent stake.

"Revenues from SC 38 Malampaya project declined by 18.72 percent compared to its 2008 performance primarily due to the lower gas-offtake and condensate liftings, as well as the continued drop in entitlement that translated to a P544.23-million decrease in net revenues," PNOC EC explained.

Coal trading accounted for P846.3 million of the company's revenue.

Aboitiz holding firm books 55% profit jump

By Doris C. Dantao

EBELBANKED CONGLOMERATE Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. booked a 55-percent growth in first-semester net profit over a year ago as its strong earnings from its banking and transportation units as well as some nonrecurring gains offset a decline in the contributions of its flagship power business.

The company disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday a six-month net profit of P3.4 billion, translating to P0.62 in earnings a share. This included a one-time net gain of P628 million, a reversal of the P43 million nonrecurring loss booked in the same period last year.

Excluding the one-off items, AEV's core net income grew up 21 percent year-on-year to about P3 billion.

Aside from a foreign exchange loss of P62 million at the parent and subsidiary levels, AEV booked a nonrecurring income of P631 million from the reversal of impairment provisions to adjust the carrying amount of the assets of Manila Transport System Corp. (MTS) given the termination of the planned sale of this shipping unit (P575 million) and the booking of the option money earlier paid to AEV for the planned sale of AES (P58 million).

Flagship subsidiary Aboitiz Power Corp. also incurred one-off expenses related to the acquisition of the Tiwi-Makban geothermal power plants, contributing P143 million to AEV's nonrecurring expenses.

For the period in review, the power group accounted for 42 percent of AEV's total earnings contribution from the various business segments. This was followed by the banking group with a 40-percent contribution amounting to 36 percent. The food and transport groups' income shares were at 13 percent each.

Aboitiz Power ended the first half of the year with an income contribution of P1.2 billion, recording a 222-percent year-on-year declines.

The financial services group contributed net earnings of P809 million in the first semester, translating a 96-percent annual growth. Union Bank of the Philippines raised its income contribution to P869 million in the first semester over a year ago while sum listed thrift bank City Savings Bank also contributed earnings of P50 million, up 49 percent from the same period last year.

Faster growth ...

From page B1

"We are confident second quarter growth is better that the first," Economic Planning Secretary Ralph Recto told reporters, adding that the prospects of a recession had receded.

"A recession is behind us," he said.

Recto's other comments from a political family has resigned from his post to run in the senatorial race in next year's polls. His resignation takes effect on Aug. 16.

Rolando Reagoldo, deputy director general at the National Economic and Development Authority said leading economic indicators, including higher consumption and car sales, as patrons of outsourcing firms and strong remittance inflows, supported higher consumer spending in the second quarter.

Bangko Sentral Governor Amando Tetangco said he did not see anymore to inject more liquidity into the financial system by cutting banks' reserve requirements, adding the current level of liquidity was enough to ease the needs of the economy.

"With the current liquidity situation, I do not see any reason to adjust the reserve requirements at this time," Tetangco told reporters.

The central bank has lowered banks' reserve requirements by 2 percentage points to 19 percent in November, releasing about P68 billion into the financial system. Retailers

Courts hamper ...

From page B1

"Many by companies in a very selfish and irresponsible act by their directors and officers," he said, adding that this was also detrimental to the country's economy as investors would think twice before bringing their IP here for fear of piracy.

"Whether you're selling their software or other IP then in the US because they know that they'll have protection there. If we can create an environment in the country that will convince people to invest here, that will be great for us. I think we've taken some strong steps toward that," he said.

BSA actually has an ex-

ABS-CBN profit ...

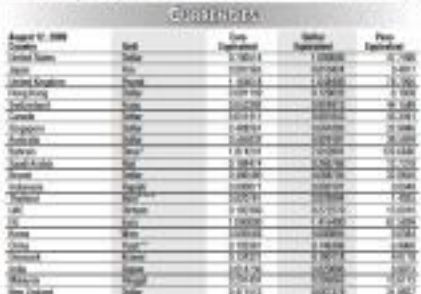
From page B1

higher consolidated revenues and tighter control on expenses.

The period, net that advertising revenues for the company got for the first half were down 13 percent. The first quarter also saw a 30-percent decline, with the drop easing to 3 percent in the second quarter as the company encountered some ban ground.

Sirduce revenues, accounting for nearly 60 percent of the company's consolidated revenues, rose 6 percent to P6.7 billion on strongBoxOffice afternoon and primetime slots that bolstered its television advertisings.

KAGATI Development Corporation kicked off its 35th founding anniversary with a tree planting activity at its Mamali project in Carmelanay, Laguna. From left: Mel Cruz, VP Land Dev. & chairman ESB, Jolet Gerong, CFO, Ruel Huertas, COO, Raul Urbano, CEO, Cristo Gabriel, SVP and Manuel Garcia, SVP Logistics & Chairman, 35th Anniversary Committee.



Petron profit down 22% to ₱1.8B in first half

Aggressive retail network expansion paying off

By Amy R. Nuno

PETRON CORP., THE country's largest oil refiner and retailer, said its net income fell by 22 percent to P1.81 billion in the first half from P2.32 billion a year ago.

Despite the decline, Petron said the first half figures marked the continuation of the company's recovery from a P70.9-billion net loss for the full year 2008.

"Despite a lower sales volume and a difficult business environment, we were able to maintain our recovery," Petron chair and CEO Ramon S. Ang said in a statement.

"We are confident that we can continue to improve on our performance over the next few months with the initiatives we have introduced. These initiatives are aimed at giving Petron new revenue streams while enhancing its leadership position in the industry," Ang said.

Petron posted P76.68 billion in revenue in the first semester, down by 41.6 percent from P130.22 billion a year ago. Total assets stood at P134.77 billion, up slightly from P111.8 billion last year.

According to Petron, the company continued to lead the industry in the first half with a market share of 46.2 percent, relative to its two biggest competitors, as it continued on an aggressive retail network expansion.

Petron earmarked P800 million to put up 200 "euro-filling" gas stations that would enable it to prevent smaller independent oil players "from further gobbling up (our market share)."

In the second quarter, Petron started the operation of a Benzene, Toluene and Xylene (BTX) unit at its 180,000 barrel-per-day Bataan refinery. The BTX unit has the capacity to produce 22,800 metric tons (MT) of Benzene and 130,000 MT of Toluene annually. It also increased the refinery's capacity to produce Mixed Xylene by 200,000 BT per year.

Benzene, Toluene, and Mixed Xylene are the raw materials used in the manufacture of home electrical goods, food containers, sanitary housing and solvents.

Union Bank sees 50% profit growth

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ASSETS-LED UNION BANK OF THE Philippines sees its 2009 profit rising by 50 percent from the P2.07 billion booked in 2008, given the expansion of its earning assets and the substantial improvement in treasury income.

The bank also expects its capital adequacy ratio to rise from its current 12.5 percent with the launch later this month of its P5-billion subordinated debt issue, which qualifies as tier 2 or supplementary capital, Union Bank president Victor Valdepeñas said.

The bank has recorded its net profit level in the whole of 2008 with a net income of about P2.1 billion in the first half of this year, up 83 percent from the level in the same period last year.

Asked whether Union Bank can match the first semester's strong performance in the second half, Valdepeñas said it was possible but it would depend on a lot of factors, including how much loan-loss provisioning the bank would have to set aside.

Union Bank chair Antonio Ortiz said that what would likely have a "dramatic" effect on bank earnings in the second half would be the marking-to-market prices of securities holdings.

About a third of the bank's earning assets are in securities, another third in loans and another third in short-term deposits with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Valdepeñas said.

Alaska H1 net surges by 230%

ALASKA MILK CORP. POSTED A 230-PERcent growth in first-semester net profit to P622 million over a year ago on the back of resilient domestic consumption, as well as the decline in the cost of raw and packaging materials.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, the company said demand for core milk products remained brisk in the second quarter, boosting revenue by 5 percent to P1.07 billion over a year ago. This brought revenue for the first half of the year to P1.35 billion, up 14 percent from year-ago level.

"The combined sales volume of the liquid canned milk business expanded during a seasonally strong second quarter, while revenue of the company's portfolio of ice cream brands remained strong, reflective of a general trend to shift to demand to lower-priced consumer products," ASMC said.

ASMC also made its products affordable through a price rollback on selected liquid canned milk brands which drove consumption higher.

After considering foreign exchange gains and lower corporate income tax, net income for the second quarter alone surged to P423 million. This accounted for 68 percent of the first-semester profit.

The first semester profit is equivalent to an earnings per share of P0.09 compared to a share of P0.20 in the same period last year. Its net sales likewise improved to 12 percent from 4 percent a year ago. Doris C. Dumlao

Agosto ko ng Low Fares!
Avail of our Domestic Seat Sale now!

DOMESTIC SEAT SALE
GO LITE FARE

₱888 Davao to Zamboanga
₱1,088 Manila to Davao or Zamboanga

Sale Period: Aug. 12-18, 2009 • Travel Period: Oct. 1 to Nov. 30, 2009

DOMESTIC GO LITE FARE

₱388	Cebu to Dumaguete
₱688	Manila to Virac or Cauayan (Isabela) NEW! Cebu to Roxas
₱788	Manila to Busuanga, Legaspi, San Jose (Mindoro) or Tuguegarao Cebu to Bacolod, Butuan, Davao, Iloilo, Surigao or Tacloban Davao to Cagayan de Oro NEW!
₱888	Manila to Naga Cebu to Cagayan de Oro
₱988	Manila to Catbalogan, Catarman, Kalibo (Boracay) or Legaspi
₱1,088	Manila to Bacolod, Cebu or Iloilo Cebu to Catarman, Dipolog, General Santos, Kalibo (Boracay), Ozamiz or Zamboanga
₱1,288	Manila to Dumaguete, Roxas, Tacloban or Tagbilaran Cebu to Legaspi or Siargao Davao to Iloilo
₱1,488	Manila to Puerto Princesa Cebu to Puerto Princesa
₱1,688	Manila to Cagayan de Oro or Davao NEW!
₱1,788	Manila to Surigao* Cebu to Clark
₱1,988	Manila to Butuan, Catbalogan, Dipolog or General Santos
₱2,288	Manila to Siargao*

*via Cebu

INTERNATIONAL GO LITE FARE

₱1,399	Manila to Kota Kinabalu or Taipei
₱2,199	Manila to Bangkok, Hong Kong, Macau or Singapore Cebu to Hong Kong, Macau or Singapore
₱2,899	Manila to Guangzhou or Ho Chi Minh
₱3,399	Manila to Jakarta or Kuala Lumpur* Cebu to Hong Kong Clark to Bangkok
₱3,899	Manila or Cebu to Incheon NEW! Cebu to Busan NEW!
₱4,399	Manila to Shanghai Cebu to Singapore

INTERNATIONAL PROMO FARE

₱4,999	Manila to Osaka

*via Cebu

Quoted fares are one way. Limited availability. Fares are exclusive of government fees and taxes. Go Lite Fares are available upon booking for guests traveling without check-in baggage. Add ₱100 to fare if traveling with check-in baggage.
GAA approved terms and conditions of carriage apply and are available online at http://www.cebupacificair.com/terms&conditions.html
Call (02) 702-0888 in Manila, (032) 230-88-88 in Cebu or visit the travel agent near you.

CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

BSP, PDIC see more bank mergers in near term

Agencies to speed up, simplify M & A process

By Michelle V. Reron

THE MANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) has signed a memorandum of agreement with Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. to speed the process of approving mergers and acquisitions among the banking territory.

This was in anticipation of an increase in the number of banks—both commercial and rural—that are going to merge in the near term.

"We are seeing more mergers, especially at the level of small banks, in terms of commercial banks, there might also be some mergers in the thrifties," BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. told reporters after the MOA signing held yesterday at the central bank's headquarters in Manila.

Espenilla, who heads the BSP's bank supervision arm, however, declined to disclose which banks were planning to merge besides Lucio Tan-owned banks Philippine National Bank and Allied Bank.

PNB and Allied Bank have announced plans to merge. The plan has been approved by their stockholders last year, but is now being hampered by a regulatory requirement stipped by the US Federal Reserve.

The US Fed said Allied Bank should first dispose of its 28-percent stake in Oriental Bank, which is based in California, before it could merge with another entity. Allied is having a difficult time looking for investors because of the risk aversion caused by the US financial sector meltdown.

The MOA signing was attended by PDIC president Jose Magtibay and some BSP officers.

Prior to the signing, banks that intend to merge have to get approval first from the PDIC and then from the BSP. With the MOA, Espenilla said, the BSP and PDIC can already observe a **simultaneous approval process** to hasten mergers and acquisitions.

"With the MOA, the process will be parallel processing of application of mergers or acquisitions, thereby hastening the process," Espenilla said.

The MOA will allow banks to get approval of their merger applications within six months, Espenilla said. Earlier, it takes much more time for banks to get the nods of the BSP and PDIC.

In the meantime, the BSP signed another MOA with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Insurance Commission. The purpose is the adoption by the three agencies of a uniform process in the accreditation of external auditors.

Excuse tax

DECEMBER 31, 2010 (2:00 P.M.)

Now would anyone for its latest excuse for that P1-million dinner tab to New York, the cute administration is coming up with more excuses for deficiencies.

The Department of Finance leads the way First, from out of nowhere, the DOF wanted to change (again) the excise tax law on cigarettes and liquor—aka "sin tax." Then, the DOF dropped the plan. All of a sudden, the DOF is now trying to revive it, using an unbelievable excuse.

And that's the WTO, or the World Trade Organization, which got a complaint from the European Union against the Philippines for alleged discrimination in taxation on foreign goods.

The DOF now implies that we have to bend over backwards immediately to please Europe or else ...

STILL, SOME lawmakers are saying that the DOF may only be using the WTO case as an excuse to have its way in the "sin tax" system.

From the very beginning, it was clear that the real target of the DOF in changing the "excise" law was the tobacco sector.

But under the "sin tax" law, the rates should increase every two years. The last increase will be in 2011 yet.

To get around such a provision in the law, the DOF now presents the excuse that the changes will have to wait until 2012.

But remember, Congress should pass the law. Why? Well, according to DOF press statements, it would not mess up "big" Congress in an election year.

So the DOF is not begging Congress now, is that it?

Besides, it is assumed that by then, in 2012, this country will be under a new administration ... not necessarily this same one. Why can the super DOF not leave it up to the next administration?

It seems that the DOF is quite in a hurry to change the law. One glaring flaw in its proposal was to remove the different rates on cigarettes. The DOF wanted a single tax rate on all cigarette brands.

That will be good for a foreign cigarette company wanting to get into the local market.

Somebody perhaps made a sobering reminder to change the law for the benefit of some big foreign cigarette companies to ensure for ... well, whatever.

LOOK, THE WTO case involves only alcohol products. It is all about the different tax rates here for foreign and local liquors.

See previously, the DOF could now implement that, indeed, our "sin tax" law violates the WTO rules. Ergo, we change the law. Just like that.

According to lawmakers, however, we actually have a lot going for us in fights like this case. The excise tax system on liquor is not based on the brand—whether it is foreign or it is local. It is rather based on the raw material.

And so, if the liquor is made from the sap of nipa, sarsaan, camaro, camaro, fuel gal, and sugarcane, the tax rate is P15.59 per liter.

The rate (i.e., made from grape or potato) is subject to a three-tiered system per liter, with a minimum of P146.87 per liter, depending on the retail price.

Quick, somebody please tell the DOF that not all—again, not all—foreign made liquors are subject to the higher tax rate.

One question to the BIR: under that the tax rate changes the lower rate on several imported liquors. Why? Because they are made from sugarcane?

Why does the DOF now keep that it must apply an all-out protection for imported liquors, using the WTO as its excuse?

How. The DOF is also implying that the alleged "discrimination" extends to tobacco products.

That should make some foreign cigarette company happy.

* * *

A FEW MONTHS ago (Breakfast, Jan. 13), we talked about a US-based, Fil-based multimillionaire named Stan Ng dying for a "stand listing" to the Philippine stock exchange.

That company, it can now be told, was Sign Resources, which is into mining.

At that time, Stan was working on its listing at the PSE. Why? For one, it probably expected an upbeat sentiment of investors, both foreign and local.

And why from January to yesterday the PSE index increased by some 668 points, or by an amazing 44 percent.

Of course, the Sign group missed the chance to ride on such an upswing. They could not meet the PSE requirements on time.

Now, the Sign representative here, an amiable guy by the name of Anand Singh, just announced that the company would soon submit its "formal" application for listing at the PSE.

The question is this: will the PSE welcome the Sign initiative?

From what I heard, Sign actually dropped around the region for its stock market listing. I guess it chose the PSE for some good reasons. Well, it's a interesting week, right? The mining sector here has been leading the market upsings in the past few years.

But the biggest winner should be the economy if the PSE can attract more listing of foreign groups. It tells the world that we are already open for business. You know—clients like to own.

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Bautista III

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

[illegible]

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform that **RICA JOY ALMIRANTE OR ANY OF HER ASSOCIATES** is and was NEVER connected to **FILPOWER SKILLS CONSULTANTS INC.** ANY TRANSACTION/S MADE by such person or any of her associates/agents under the name of FILPOWER SKILLS CONSULTANTS INC. **WAS MADE WITHOUT AUTHORITY.**

(PDI-August 12, 2010)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

[illegible]

RP gets P3B in soft loans for agroforestry, rural dev't

By Rica T. Olchondra

THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL Development (Ifad) is providing the Philippines $66 million or about P3.03 billion in loans for agroforestry and rural development projects in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

The Department of Agriculture said a signed an agreement on the loan with Ifad on Monday and that the latter had already released $3.3 million or P73 million for working capital.

In the meantime, the IFA had approved the release of P170.8 million to counterpart fund and loan proceeds to get the projects started.

The funds will be used for agricultural productivity, infrastructure and rural infrastructure.

The infrastructure component will be directed to building farm-to-market roads, community-based irrigation systems and development of village level potable water systems.

Agriculture Undersecretary for operations Rosa Lorena Fe Pasia, who signed the memorandum with Ifad country program manager Sana Fiz Jarra, said the Ifad-funded projects would benefit 179 barangays in 37 towns of six provinces in the central highlands of Northern Luzon.

Agreements with the governors of the six covered provinces have been signed, while agreements with 18 out of the 37 covered towns were entered into.

A separate agreement has been reached by the agriculture department and the National Commission for Indigenous People on the issuance of ancestral land title and domain titles for ancestral lands in private properties in the barangays covered.

Pasia said that since several of the targeted barangays were newly organized, the project will give new local government units a lively start at charting their own development with a financial and technical backing from the Ifad-IFA partnership.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

[illegible]

Globe taps online shopping market, launches GCash Click

By Miko Pineda

TAPPING INTO THE BURGEONING MARKET of online shopping, Globe Telecom yesterday introduced a new payment option for people buying goods offered in websites.

GCash Click combines the services used by online shoppers—an easier way to pay for goods purchased and an efficient delivery system.

Run by Globe subsidiary G-Xchange Inc., GCash Click "takes care of" both the buyer and the seller by establishing awareness of the transaction in progress, by having them to agree to their terms and conditions, and deliver mutual satisfaction with the transaction."

In yesterday's press launch of GCash Click, GG president Myrna Mendoza-Kalaw said that it addresses all the issues from the standpoints of buyers and sellers.

GXI communications the members of using delivery firm Delgado Brothers Inc. (Delbros) for clients of GCash Click, ensuring that goods bought using the GCash service would be delivered as scheduled.

Both said buyers and sellers pay a fee to Delbros for the delivery of goods. If the transactions were not completed, the safe shipping deposit would be credited back to both parties.

Up to the last minute, buyers could turn down the delivered goods in case they did not meet their expectations, she said.

Payment will only be debited from a buyer's GCash account when he or she accepts the item.

To use the new service, buyers only have to click on the icon of GCash Click found on accredited online shops. Users will be prompted to register with Click, after which a confirmatory e-mail will be sent containing the buyer's username and a provisional password.

Buyers are then asked to key in the details of the products they are purchasing. The system will send another confirmation through e-mail and text message to the user once the steps are completed.

Sellers, in the meantime, receive a prompt via SMS and e-mail about a pending purchase and they go through a series of steps.

BUSINESS

Gov't debt stock dropped to ₱4.219T in May

Stronger peso had a hand in bringing down debt

By Reynal W. Dorotan

THE GOVERNMENT'S DEBT STOCK settled at 4.219 trillion as of end-May, dipping by P20.3 billion, or 0.9 percent, from P4.239-trillion in April due to net payments for the month as well as a stronger peso.

Also, outstanding loans during the first five months were 7.3 percent higher than the 09.937 billion recorded in the same period of 2008.

With the country's population expected to reach 92.23 million this year, each citizen would have a share of P45,714.6 of the total outstanding debt.

Based on the finance of the Treasury's latest report on government debts, 57 percent, or P2.403 trillion, of total debts was borrowed from domestic lenders.

Local debt stoked up by 0.1 percent month-on-month, or P1.3 billion, from the P2.402 trillion posted in April. The increase was due to greater issuances of Treasury bills and bonds compared to redemptions.

In May, the value of government issues also increased by 6.1 percent, reaching P2.391 trillion from P2.392 trillion.

Also, 43 percent or P1.817 trillion of total outstanding debt were denominated in foreign currencies such as dollar, euro and yen.

The amount is P40.6 billion, or 2.2 percent lower from the P1.857 trillion owed to foreign lenders in April.

The BTr attributed the decrease in foreign debt to the depreciation of the peso against the dollar, which pushed down the debt stock by P48 billion, as well as a net repayment of P3 billion posted in May.

However, the decrease was partially offset by P15 billion in net appreciation of other currencies, like the yen and euro, against the dollar.

Aside from loans extended by multilateral lenders and official aid from foreign governments, the Philippines also borrows internationally through the issuance of bonds denominated in dollars, yen and euros.

In May, the government's debt in US dollars were valued at P920.6 billion, while yen and euro loans stood at P24.5 billion and P76.1 billion, respectively.

The government's total contingent debt, composed mainly of sovereign guarantees, went down 6.6 percent to P508.1 billion in May from P511.7 billion in April.

SMC, HK firm start small on $1-B food security program

By Rita T. Olchondra

THE $1-BILLION FOOD SECURITY SEEDLING of San Miguel Corp. and Hong Kong's Kuok Group will start small with a crop farming project in Davao del Norte, project head Isidro P. Sycuangco yesterday said during a forestry investment forum.

"We have spent millions on consultants and on delineating lands. We hope we can gain the necessary approvals before the end of the year so that we can finally start planting," Sycuangco said.

He said the joint venture company San Miguel Kuok Food Security Inc., would start with crops needed in making San Miguel products, such as corn, cassava, sweeteners, and rice.

He said the total target area of the crop venture would be 1 million hectares.

SMC chair Eduardo Cojuangco earlier said that the project, to be implemented in collaboration with the Philippine government, would entail an investment of up to $1,000 per hectare.

San Miguel and the Hong Kong firm have already signed a memorandum of agreement with the government at the Boao Forum for Global City in Taguig City.

The two companies will offer financial assistance, technical expertise and a guarantee to buy all agricultural products. The land will be owned by the Philippine government.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Bicol Farms of the Philippines, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, and the National Power Corp. will identify, evaluate, and review government lands suitable for food production.

2009 Civic brings pure intensity

The 2009 Civic sports a refreshed exterior styling that exudes a more dynamic and aggressive look. Newly designed front bumper and mesh-type grille give its front-end appearance more positive flare, laying out the low-end are the new low combination lights design that blends perfectly with the Civic's overall sporty character. Meanwhile, the 2.0-liter variant comes with standard 16[illegible] and 17" multi-spoke alloy wheels for an even sharper look.

Raising the bar in the field of excellence, Honda sets up the industry by consistently offering products that answer the dynamic needs of the market. The new Civic now carries the improved paddle-shift technology in its 1.8 S AT variant. Originally introduced in the 2.0-liter version, this first-in-class race-inspired paddle shift technology enables manual shifting of gears without the clutch.

To keep up with the new Civic's bold styling and sporty paddle shift technology, it maintains its original advantages such as advanced engine setting and remarkable driving performance through the i-VTEC engine 5-speed automatic transmission and SRS[illegible] for front and [illegible] Windows for rear temperature. The i-VTEC engine technology has gained distinction in providing high torque, high power output, low fuel consumption and cleaner emissions that puts 11 DG 4 levels (even if Philippines regulations only mandate 10 DG) compliance. The Civic remains to be the most powerful in its class with maximum power output of 140 ps at 6500 rpm for the 1.8 liter variant and 155 ps at 6800 rpm for the 2.0 liter variant. To further enhance fuel efficiency, it still comes with class-leading 5-speed automatic transmission to reduce engine revolution and noise.

The Civic continues to provide an expansive interior space with its extensive wheelbase.

Just like any other Honda model, the Civic follows the principle "Man-Maximum, Machine-Minimum" to provide a pleasurable driving comfort. To complement its overall comfort interior, the new Civic is equipped with USB audio interface for direct connection to digital audio players and other USB devices that contains MP3, WMA or AAC music files. Its top of the line variant also comes with leather seats for a classy touch.

Drive on the road in celebration with the 2009 Civic! The revitalized 2009 Honda Civic promises a complete vehicle package that is perfect for today's highly active lifestyle.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Fish kebabs with crusty top, golden brown tahini cookies /C3

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan
LIFESTYLE Food

Washing machine kahanga-hanga, lifestyle dinadamay kapag sira!
STAR

Shakey's Chick 'n Chips Awesome Twosome
GET SOME
NEW!
ORDER NOW! 77-777

'Empanadas,' creamy 'torta,' 'carne asada,' 'dulce de leche'—it's irresistibly Argentina

One special lunch with the Ambassador becomes a mouthwatering gastronomy tour

By Cherie V. Moral

EMPANADAS

THERE WERE NINE DISHES ON THE menu, including desserts, and only three or four had beef in them.

That isn't quite what you would expect of a typical Argentinean meal, if you have read in bound of Argentina's famous asados (barbecues) and parrillas (grills). The South American country is, after all, one of the world's biggest beef producers.

Of course, very little is known of Argentina's cuisine in these parts, even as a local brand of corned beef is named after it. Perhaps that's the reason of what Filipinos know of the food is the kind of fine wines that meat is a major part of the diet.

"It's true are not a lot of beef, but that's not all that we eat," said our hostess, Dr. Silvia Schaffl, wife of Argentina Ambassador Mario Schaffl. "You know, just as Hongkong and may think Adana eat only rice. You have other foods."

The Schaffls, whose 1½-year posting in Manila ends this month, invited Inquirer Lifestyle to a specially prepared Argentinean lunch at their official home.

Luncheon hosts, the Schaffls regaled guests with interesting tales and video on the annual Argentinean tango, how it differ from the Spanish, for instance.

The Schaffls enjoy their food, but they're also health buffs. Our Ambassador runs in the neighborhood, his twelve mile also runs his on the treadmill.

"They're very easy to prepare, said the food is very light," she said. The hearts of Palm Salad was refreshing, tossed in a light Dijon Vinaigrette Dressing.

CCAC GLOBAL CULINARY ARTS CENTER

GLOBAL
TOP QUALITY CULINARY EDUCATION
25,000 discount!
Programs offered:
Grand Diploma in Professional Culinary, Baking and Pastry Arts
Diploma in Professional Culinary Arts
Certificate in Professional Baking and Pastry Arts

Gastronomic region

Argentina has several gastronomic regions. The central part, where Spanish—and later, Italian—immigrants settled, has the famous steaks, pastries, empanadas, and also pastas and pizzas. It was also under Spanish colonial rule; the Spaniards brought livestock and wheat. Buenos Aires, the capital, belongs to the central plains.

The northwest, unsullied by outside influences, has pre-Hispanic foods based on maize, pumpkins, potatoes, peppers and Swiss cows. It's an agricultural region.

The Patagonian plateau, along the Atlantic coast, is known for seafood. German and Welsh immigrants brought European influences to the cuisine.

The famous yerba mate tea originated from the northeast region. Owing also to European immigrants, Argentina is now a formidable wine producer in Latin America. The Philippines imports some of these wines.

"Our food is a mix of Spanish, Italian, French influences," said the ambassador. "But a lot of it also has peasant roots," he explained the decidedly rustic menu.

Distinct flavor

The meal was preceded by a selection of empanadas with beef or corn filling, not much different from the empanadas Filipinos know. All stuffed, or ground red pepper, however, gave them their distinct smoky flavor (Dr. Schaffl brings packets of these from home).

While the empanadas were served as hors d'oeuvres, Dr. Schaffl said young Argentineans now typically serve a platter of empanadas with a big bowl of salad as get-togethers.

"Young people don't have much time to cook or even a big space to cook a meal," she said. "They usually just gather around a platter of these. It's easy to make and very filling."

Le Soufflé chef Annie Sinsioco, whom the Schaffls asked to prepare the meal, underscored the use of corn in most of the dishes.

FLAT ABS IN 30 DAYS
Burn fat. Body wraps speed up the metabolism with the FAT MOBILIZATION SYSTEM. Burn 1000 to 2000 calories in just 35 minutes and continue burning more up to 48 hours after a session.
Eliminate a hard-to-lose beer belly. Ultrasound waves target and melt fat cells with ULTRASHAPE. This ultimate fat destroyer guarantees you'll lose up to 2 cms in just one session.
Tone abs. PHYSIQUE INCH-LOSS gives the same results as doing 225 crunches in just 15 minutes. It builds, tones, and strengthens your abs as you lie down and relax.
Tighten sagging areas and flabs. Radio Frequency technology heats fat cells and speeds up the metabolism for easier burning. In just 30 minutes, TRIPOLLAR TUMMY flattens a stubborn beer belly while it tones jiggly love handles.
Manic Frenzie For Men programs are all non-surgical and let you resume your daily routine right after each treatment. Flat abs are yours in just 30 days!
Call now for a FREE private consultation.
Call 813-7959
FOR MEN
manic france international
MAKATI • ORTIGAS • TOMAS MORATO • BINONDO • ALABANG • SHAW • CONGRESSIONAL • PAMPANGA • CEBU

ARGENTINA Ambassador Mario Schulz whose wife Silvia Schulz posing in the Philippines with chicharrones, and his wife, Dr. Silvia Schulz

TORTA Pascualina, creamy spinach pie

ALFAJORES, a delicate traditional cookie sandwich filled with another traditional delicacy, dulce de leche

'Empanadas,' creamy 'torta,' 'carne asada,' 'dulce de leche'—it's irresistibly Argentina

From page 11

Torta Pascualina followed the salad, a spinach pie so creamy it begged for seconds. A dish of ground beef and corn, Pastel de Choclo, came after the soup (corn), then a hearty stew called Carbonada Criolla served in a baked pumpkin bowl, washed down by a fine Argentinean Malbec.

Interlocutor sent out a refined version of the carne asada, beef skewers with the quintessential Argentine barbecue sauce, the chimichurri, a mixture of olive oil, vinegar, garlic, parsley, oregano and red pepper.

The lunch was capped not by one but three desserts: Flan, exactly like our own leche flan; Panqueques de Dulce de Leche, or crepes with milk caramel; and Alfajores, a shortbread cookie sandwich.

Dairy-rich Argentina is famous for its dulce de leche, made from scratch using fresh milk, sugar, vanilla and sodium bicarbonate. It's a tiresome work to stir the milk mixture continuously until it thickens to the right consistency. But Dr. Schulz shared a tip. Putting glass marbles into the pot makes the stirring more effective.

"It's science!" the said. (Others prefer to take the shortcut by boiling an unopened can of condensed milk for 3-4 hours.)

Alfajores is a delicate confection usually slathered with dulce de leche. It's an divine, our fellow guest—who initially said no to dessert—changed her mind after the first bite. A restaurant sales team a snack at the embassy for a long time but has since retired makes a hands for the Schulz on special occasions.

Alfajores is a popular gift in Argentina, often sold in bakeries in beautifully wrapped boxes. There was no better way to conclude the meal than with a piece of it.

BEEF Skewers with Chimichurri Sauce

WINE wines from Argentina

LE SOUFFLÉ'S chef Jessie Elevazo, who prepared the lunch for the Schulz

HEARTS of Palm Salad with Dill-Yogurt Dressing

Go Argentinean right in your home

Torta Pascualina

1 pastry for double crust pie
1 kg spinach
1 chopped onion
¼ cup shortening
1 tsp oregano
¼ cup salt
2 beaten eggs
1 cup Ricotta cheese
Boiled cream, sauce, salt and slightly pepper. Add salt and nutmeg. Add spinach and cook for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool. Add cheese to the cooled spinach mixture. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Preheat oven to 400°F. Roll out one of the pastry sheets in a circle about 14 inches in diameter. Drape pastry over a 9-inch tart pan with a removable bottom, pressing pastry into bottom and sides of pan. Fill tart with spinach/cheese mixture. Cut the hard-boiled eggs in half. Press them into the filling, spacing them evenly.

Roll out other piece of puff pastry into a 9-inch circle, and place on top of tart. Seal edges together and crimp with a fork. Brush tart with the egg wash. Use a fork to prick a few holes on the top of the tart to vents. Place tart in oven, lower temperature to 350°F, and bake for 1 hour.

Pastel de Choclo

¼ cup whole milk
4 ½ cups fresh corn cut 2 16-oz. packages frozen corn, thawed)
2 tbsp fresh basil, thinly sliced
4 tsp sugar, divided
1 c chicken broth (or water)
1 c onion, finely sliced
½ c red bell pepper, thinly sliced
½ c carrot, thinly sliced
¼ cup black pepper
3 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
2 bay leaves
½ lb boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into bite-sized pieces
4 tbsp fresh parsley, minced
Cooking spray
Preheat the oven to 350°F.

Combine milk and corn in a large saucepan; bring to a boil. Cover, reduce the heat, and simmer for 15 minutes. Remove from the heat; let stand, cover for 5 minutes. Place the corn mixture in a food processor; process it until smooth. Stir in the basil, 1 tsp of the sugar, and ½ tsp salt.

Combine broth, onion, bell pepper, carrot, black pepper, garlic and bay leaves in a large saucepan; bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat, and simmer for 15 minutes. Add remaining ½ tsp salt, chicken, and parsley. Cover and cook for 10 minutes or until chicken is done. Drain; discard bay leaves.

Place chicken mixture in the bottom of an 8-inch-by-square baking dish coated with cooking spray. Top with the corn mixture, sprinkle evenly with remaining 1 tbsp sugar. Bake at 400°F for 25 minutes.

Carbonada Criolla

1 large pumpkin, about 5 kg
4 tbsp olive oil
1 kg braising steak, cut into cubes
1 large onion, finely chopped
3 fresh red chillies, seeded and chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1 large tomato, roughly chopped
2 fresh bay leaves
2 ½ c beef stock
1 ½ c red wine
500 g potatoes, peeled and cut into 2-cm cubes
500 g sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 2-cm cubes
1 corn cob, cut widthways into 6 slices
3 peaches, peeled, pitted and cut into thick wedges
Salt and ground black pepper

Wash the outside of the pumpkin. Using a sharp knife, carefully cut a slice off the top 2 ½ inch from the stem, to make a lid. Using a spoon, scoop out the seeds and stringy fibers and discard. Scoop out some of the flesh, leaving a shell about ¾-inch thick inside of the pumpkin. Cut the flesh you have removed into ½-inch pieces.

Brush the inside of the pumpkin and the flesh side of the lid with a little olive oil. Season with salt and ground black pepper. Place both pumpkin and lid on a baking sheet, flesh-side up. Set aside.

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Heat half of the remaining oil in a large heavy pan over a high heat. Add the beef, brown and sauté for 8-10 minutes, until golden brown, then remove with a slotted spoon; you may need to do this in batches. Avoid adding too much beef to the pan or it will steam rather than brown.

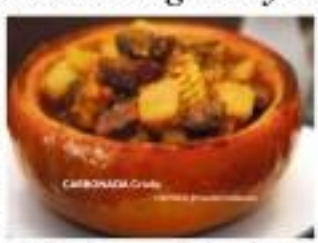
Lower the heat and add the remaining oil to the pan. Stir in the onion and chillies, and sauté for 5 minutes. Scrape the base of the pan with a wooden spoon, to loosen any sediment. Add the garlic and tomato and cook for 2 minutes or more. Return the meat to the pan and add the bay leaves, stock and red wine. Bring to a boil, then lower the heat to a gentle simmer. Cook for 1 hour or until the meat is tender.

Place the baking sheet containing the pumpkin and its lid in the oven and bake for 30 minutes.

Add the potatoes, sweet potatoes, pieces of pumpkin and corn to the stew. Pour in more liquid if needed and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer, cover and cook for 15 minutes.

Finally, add the peach wedges and season with salt and black pepper to taste. Spoon the stew into the partially cooked pumpkin, cover with the pumpkin lid and bake for 15 minutes or until pumpkin is tender.

Carefully lift the filled pumpkin onto a large, serving platter and take it to the table. Ladle the stew onto plates, then cut the empty pumpkin into 6 to 8 wedges, depending on the number of people to be served.



Skewers with Chimichurri Sauce

4 zucchini, sliced
2 large yellow squash, sliced
1 purple onion, halved, quartered and separated
4 green peppers, sliced
1 handfuls cherry tomatoes
2 ½ lb steak, cut into 2-inch cubes
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
Sauce
8 garlic cloves, minced
1 c minced fresh flat-leaf parsley
2 tbsp fresh oregano
1 tbsp red pepper flakes
½ c red wine vinegar
1 ½ cups virgin olive oil
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Prepare the grill on medium-high heat.

Skewer alternating pieces of vegetables and steak. Season with salt and pepper as desired. Lightly brush the skewers with about half the chimichurri sauce and then thumb up on the prepared grill. Cover and cook, turning occasionally, until the meat is as a desired doneness and the vegetables are lightly charred and tender, about 8 minutes for medium. Pour the remaining chimichurri sauce into 1 or 2 small bowls so that guests may add more, if desired.

For the chimichurri sauce, combine the first 4 ingredients in a bowl. With a fork, whisk in the red wine vinegar followed by the olive oil. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Set the mixture aside for at least 4 hours so that the flavors combine.

Alfajores

600 g flour
1 pinch of salt
4 yolks
300 gr butter
125 g lard
icing
400 g sugar
1 c water
2 egg whites

Mix flour and salt in a bowl. Add fat to the flour mixture, blending with your fingers until the mixture is smooth. Add vanilla and mix until dough is smooth. Let the dough rest in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.

Roll out dough to 3/8-inch thickness, and cut into 2-inch circles. Place cookies on baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Bake cookies for 10-15 minutes, until they are barely golden brown. Fill the cookies with dulce de leche and top with second cookie.

PASTEL de Choclo, ground beef and corn casserole

Panqueques de Dulce de Leche, crepes with milk caramel

Fish kebabs with crusty top, golden brown tahini cookies

By Norma Chikiamco
Contributor

DESCRIBING 25-mark food is about as complex as describing Jewish history.

Because of Israel's unique geographical position, the influences on its cuisine are of biblical proportions, as are Israel as long as it remains at the global stage. From Arabian to Mediterranean, from Russian to Turkish to Moroccan, the food of Israel bears traces of them all, and thanks to recent developments, it has gained world respect and reached new culinary heights.

This is probably one reason why the Mandarin Oriental Hotel was inspired to hold an Israeli food festival this week at Dusit Thani. Wisely, for the festival, guest chef Gil Barnea, who has trained with three-Michelin star chef Alain Ducasse in Paris, and who has become an acclaimed chef himself, has chosen to highlight the dishes with Arabian influences. This narrowing down to a specific angle gives the festival focus while introducing diners to the flavorful delights of Israeli food.

And what rich and deep flavors there are to discover. A hallmark of Israeli food is the use of olive oil, herbs and spices, and one finds them spilling up the dishes in ways both familiar and unexpected.

While chickpeas are drizzled with olive oil and mixed with parsley, lemon juice and cumin to create a vibrant appetizer called hummus. The tabouleh salad forms consensus with chopped parsley, mint leaves and tomatoes, while the eggplant is roasted to acquire a smoky flavor before being mixed with tahini, a paste made with toasted sesame seeds and lemon juice.

From the ubiquitous pita bread, with which these appetizers are to be eaten, to made more flavorful with an enormous menu of pine nuts and sumac, an aromatic, fruity powder made from dark purple berries that grows wild in the Middle East.

Because of Israel's mountainous terrain, the hardy grain, couscous (here, are also made the success of milk and cheese. Thus, the cheese found on the Israeli table is taken for feta, with all its flavor variations.

FISH kebab, Israeli style

BOREKA, puff pastry with a filling of feta cheese, spinach and eggplant

CHEF Gil Barnea

Rare chance to savor complex yet yummy Israeli food

Chef Gil says it as filling for the "boureka," a rich, buttery filo pastry that looks neither its baby birds a mixture of feta, eggplants and spinach. Drizzled with yoghurt sauce made from goat's milk, it is as devastating as Moses' ten yet worth every mouthful.

At the press preview, Chef Gil's dishes surprised us with the fish kebabs. Instead of being skewered, coarsely chopped grouper was combined with eggplant, given a creamy top and served with salsa of grilled tomatoes and capsicum.

The desserts are similarly scrumptious. Aside from the familiar baklava, there are tahini cookies, powdery cookies made with Bosa, tahini paste, sugar and butter and baked into a golden brown.

The "falafel" a milk mix moved with cornstarch and sugar, similar to "panna cotta," while the "kunafa," which I liked best of all the desserts, is a flan, has like strip of crunchy pastry topped with chopped pistachio nuts and surrounded with syrup.

I'm not sure if it will be available during the festival but if you gotta up enough room, perhaps you can ask Chef Zion to prepare for you the same drink he made for us at the press preview: lemonade scented with fragrant rose water. It's the perfect cooler for refreshing the palate in between successive bites of this enchanting cuisine.

Israeli cuisine is being served as part of the buffet in Asian Line, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, until Aug. 16. For more information call Peninsula at 750-8000.

Dining Out

Gourmet lunch box

CHEFLine (+63 (0) 2892 0607 / 8926 4671) introduces the Gourmet Lunch Box. Showcasing the best of the restaurant's Pan Borders cuisine, it includes a five-course meal spread in one tray. It consists of the amuse-bouche of the day, soup, palate teasers, soup of the day, mixed green salad with vinaigrette dressing, dessert of the day, and main course from among 5 choices including Chilean Sea Bass, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Roast Angus Rib Eye and Slow-Cooked Lamb Shank.

All-meat pizza

The Peninsula Pizza Bar at the Landmark Department Store in Ayala Center Cebu offers Meatlovers Square Pan Pizza, a pizza of beef, ham, pepperoni, chorizo and salami.

4-in-1 pizza

Burgers 'n Pizza Samplers combines Supreme, Pepperoni, Hawaiian, Margherita, Vegetarian, Seafood, Philippine's Delight, Taco and All Meat Pizza. Burger can be eaten at Tomas Morato in Quezon City, Powerplant Mall in Rockwell, Makati; The Podium in Ortigas, The Promenade in Metro Manila, Greenhills, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center-Cubao, Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas, SM City The Block in North EDSA, Mall of Asia in Pasay and SM City Manila.

BBQ ribs

Gerry's Grill's Super BBQ Ribs is its outlets located at Promenade Shoppes Molino, SM Mall of Asia, SM City The Block, North Edsa, and at The SQ, Nuvo Mandaluyong, SM Megamall.

'Gilik'-free milkfish from Sarangani Bay

BOOTS WROTE ASKING me for ways to prepare milkfish. But before the recipes, it's high time we pay tribute to the country's top milkfish producers, the Alcantaras, the family behind the world-famous Sarangani Bay "bangus."

It was an "epic" struggle I am told. The acting was Mindanao, 1952, when Consuelo Alcantara bought a property in Alabel, Cotabato, now the capital of Sarangani province.

The Alcantaras did not start off with a thriving aquaculture business.

The Alabel property was initially a cattle farm and piggery. The livestock was brought to Manila, slaughtered and sold.

The rambling freight train and traveling that took a toll on the animals put a halt to the farm's operations.

The family then hired a German consultant and thought of butchering, aging and selling the meat themselves. But while the sale of prime cuts did well, they had the rest of the cuts, the intestines ratio to worry about. The business didn't last for very long either.

But there seems no stopping a hardworking, persistent man like Alcantara.

In the '80s, Alcantara took interest in aquaculture and, together with Dole Philippines, ventured into prawn farming.

This time, what hit the prawns industry hard, driving many out of business.

Stuck with concrete ponds, filling it with "bangus" seemed like the most brilliant, if not the only way to go — which paid off.

KITCHEN RESCUE

Angie Ayhiron

Sarangani Bay

Today, Sarangani Bay boasts of the only fully integrated aquaculture operation. They take great pride in being in control of their precious "bangus," principles and "sigbings," from birth to death, from the hatchery to the kitchen. They then pay careful attention to and care for their fish at all stages.

The Alcantara "bangus" remains appealing, both to the eye and to the palate, for it is "gilik"-less.

Gaby Alcantara explains that the deadly taste of the "gilik" is caused by a form of algae that predominantly grows in freshwater.

Once the "bangus" ingests algae that causes like soil, they too, once cooked, will taste like soil or "gilik."

This can be eliminated by constantly monitoring the pond water's quality and salinity. Good quality water has no "gilik" causing algae.

"Our land-based ponds follow a process. We lessen the salt content of our water during the initial stages of the life of our "bangus." This allows them to grow faster. Treated the latter part of their nursery, we do the exact opposite. We increase the salt content of the water further," Gabby says.

"Our sea cages, on the other hand, are located in areas that ensure a clean, pristine environment to grow our fish."

With all these attention to detail, it is not surprising that the brand has set a global standard.

And here are your recipes, fresh from Rose Alcantara Hontanosas, the lady tagged as the family chef.

Sinigang na Tinapa

1 pc Sili (Sarangani smoked Bonebon "bangus" sliced into half
1 pc small pouch tamarind soup base
5 tbs soy sauce
2 pcs tomatoes, quartered
2 pcs medium-sized onion, quartered
6 pcs "okra," one inch halves
"kangkong" (morning glory)
eggplant (optional)

SARANGANI Bay

THE ALCANTARA "bangus"

Boil the tamarind soup base in one cup water.

Add tomatoes, onion, salt.

Add radish and boil until soft.

Add the rest of the vegetables.

Boil until vegetables are cooked.

Lastly, add smoked fish and allow to simmer over medium fire for 10 minutes or until the broth attains a smoky flavor.

Tokwa't Baboy

1 Sarangani Bay "bangus" belly
1 pack tofu
Salad oil
½ cup Kikkoman soy sauce
¼ cup Del Monte vinegar
1 calamansi
2 tbsp garlic, minced finely
2 tbsp white sugar
½ tsp black pepper
2 tsp Knorr liquid seasoning
Garnish:
Onion rings
Chopped red peppers

Sprinkle salt and pepper on the belly.

Marinate for 30 minutes.

Cut fish into 1 x 1 ½-inch rectangular pieces.

Cut tofu into one-inch squares. Drain on paper cloth towel for one hour.

Deep-fry bangus in hot oil until crisp and brown. Drain.

Deep-fry tofu in another pan until brown, inside and outside. Drain.

Mix all the ingredients and adjust to your desired taste.

Just before serving, mix the belly and tofu in a bowl.

Add enough sauce to soak the belly and tofu. Too much sauce will make tofu soggy.

Serve the rest of the sauce on the side.

Garnish with onion rings and chopped red pepper.

Creamy 'malunggay' pesto and 'laing' pasta

YOUNG'S LIFESTYLE DICKTES HEALTHY eating, just as it is understood to eat "rich" once in a while, especially if the menu is as exquisite as this diner recently had.

RATING INDEX

Poor

Good

Excellent

The Quiet Diner
Restos at a glance

Le Bistro
3B Iriondo, Forbes Town Center Plaza, Makati City (N of Avida Cities, Salcedo Village, Makati City; tel. 403-1841)

This is a new venture of partners who used to be actively involved with a popular brand of coffee. Le Bistro is a resto that serves safe food and drinks, light meals, coffee and cocktails/refreshments.

Dining area: Very cozy, pleasant, done in teal blue and beige. The Age of Aquarius, a time of harmony (of nature) is symbolized by the giant mural depicting sea life in brilliant yellows and browns. The ambience is cheerful, effective, easy.

Staff: Courteous, quick.

Service: Gracious, knowledgeable.

Suggested menu: Start with a small bowl of Corn and Potato soup, enough to whet one's appetite. Choose Spinach Salad and be ready for the main courses/s. They are big-size, especially baked pan de sal for **their sandwiches. Fish Burger with side** Salad or Mushroom Burger of whole-wheat Pan de Sal, plus with salad. Do not miss the Creamy Malunggay Pesto Pasta cooked with chicken and lemon zest. Pretentious the meal with any type of coffee, served as coffee should be. They are open from breakfast to 10:30 p.m.

Usual charges are added to the bills.

Rating:

The Terrace at Ith
Unit 83, G/F Evangelista 5, Ayala Center, Makati; tel. 7250988/8905

The exquisite taste of the resto's lady partners is evident to the interiors and food.

Dining area: The spiritual ambience of a convent is encountered in the interiors, down to pistachio green Tiffany-like hand-painted walls to the cake-iconic bags). Even the "lobby" room is like a garden, full of blooms.

Staff: Gracious, attentive.

Service: Impeccable. Chef Carlo cordially checks on how the guests are treated.

Suggested menu: The salads are light and placed to attractively that one is tempted to order more than one. Cynthia's Amazing Artichoke Salad is a winner, just as Jo's Tofu with Truffle Oil is, likewise CCS's Salad of Prosciutto wrapped green with Mozzarella cheese. Ingenious is the Laing Pasta, or Laing with Coconut Cream. Then, try the Chicken in Pistachio Sauce with Shiitake with Garlic Roasted Cole Slaw Rice to round it. Sole Meunière in lemon butter with marble potatoes. Share Halo-halo to punctuate the super meal.

Usual service and government charges and senior discounts.

Rating:

Ham-and-egg Sandwich

Sandwich meals

QUEEN COOKIES AND BREADS offers plain wheat, whole-wheat, Pullman loaf not pandesal. Whole-wheat bread contains fiber, protein, carbohydrate, vitamins and minerals. Here are sandwich and salad recipes:

Tacoburgers
½ k ground beef
½ onion, minced
1 green bell pepper, cubed
½ cup/s barbecue sauce
1 tsp/s taco powder
4 Oliver's hamburger buns

Sauté ground beef in frying pan no oil fat is rendered. Remove meat from pan and discard the oil. Using the same pan, sauté the onion until translucent. Return ground beef to the pan; add spicy barbecue sauce and tacoa powder. Cook for a minute then add green bell pepper and cook for 2 minutes more. Serve on Oliver's hamburger buns. Makes 4 sandwiches.

Mexican Salsa
½ k tomatoes, chopped
½ white onion, minced
1 green bell pepper, chopped
1 cucumber, peeled and chopped
1 tsp/s cumin powder
Iodized salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
1 bunch cilantro (wansoy), chopped
Combine all ingredients.

Taco Burgers
2 cans hot and spicy tuna (140 g each), drained well
2 large yellow sweet potato (2 cups), boiled and mashed
2 eggs
½ c flour
1 tsp garlic powder
½ tsp iodized salt
1 tbsp butter
lettuce
4 Oliver's hamburger buns
Combine tuna, sweet potato and 1 egg. Form into 4 patties. Combine flour, garlic powder and salt. Dip patties in 1 beaten egg and coat with flour mixture. In a nonstick frying pan, melt butter and cook patties till both sides are golden brown.

Serve on Oliver's hamburger buns spread with mayonnaise and tuna mixture. Makes 4 sandwiches.

Deconstructed Caesar Cup
2 yellow sweet potatoes, cut into wedges
2 c canola oil
3 tbsp balsamic vinegar
2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
Iodized salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
Deep fry yellow sweet potatoes in canola oil. Drain on paper towels. Drizzle with balsamic vinegar, extra virgin olive oil and season with iodized salt and freshly ground black pepper.

Ham & Egg Salad Sandwich
6 eggs, hardboiled and mashed
2 slices ham, chopped
2 tbsp chives, minced
¼ cup mayonnaise
½ tsp paprika
Iodized salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
Lettuce leaves
8 slices Oliver's Pullman loaf bread
Combine eggs, ham, mayonnaise and spices. Serve on Oliver's Pullman loaf bread piled onto Romaine lettuce leaves. Makes 4 sandwiches.

Curried Chicken Sandwich
2 chicken breasts, boiled and shredded
1 ripe Fuji apple, peeled and cubed
1 c tarter or plain yogurt
1-2 tsp curry powder
Iodized salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
1 cucumber, peeled and sliced into thin disks
8 slices Oliver's whole wheat loaf bread
Combine shredded chicken, yogurt, curry powder and salt. Lay cucumber slices on 4 slices of Oliver's whole wheat loaf bread. Top with chicken mixture. Makes 4 sandwiches.

Indian Potato Salad
½ k marble potatoes, boiled
Onion, minced
1 container natural plain yogurt
½ tsp turmeric
2 tsp curry powder
Iodized salt and white pepper to taste

NATIVE delicacy

Workers in Iloilo bakery make 'barquillos' by hand

IN MANY PROVINCES THE BEST-TO, markets make for interesting stops because there, one can see the preferred ingredients and resources of the place. But to interesting are traditional bakeries because these have existed for so many years. History is in each cookie or biscuit though the present owners will mostly tell you that they don't really know where it comes from or who gave the recipes.

In Iloilo City, there were four that were part of my discovery. Panaderia de Molo will have its old wood-burning oven and workers will do the same cookies from recipes that are more than a hundred years old.

Country Cooking

Merly Fenix

At the Oramas Bakery, workers do each barquillo by hand. It is said that the barquillos are derived from the Asian (Imari) recipe, very sweetened.

Panaderia Dra has a funny name but everyone goes there for the pan de sal and the owner just smiles when asked if it is true that they did the first biscocho. And Biano chocolate has tropical products at their original shop.

At the old Nilupa Bakery in Bolanos, several jars contained different kinds of cookies. Binuelos principe was my favorite there but so was the hojas empanada with cheese and ham on top. The bakery was shut down because of a dispute with the original landholders so the recipe for that empanada, probably also the prime mood for the pastry, died with the owners.

In a Leute town, the bakery churns out two particular biscuits, the hojitey sweet rascas and salitas de cebu. The bakery makes special orders especially during fiestas and Christmas season.

A recent visit to Banate brought us to another biscuit-cookie – the seseo. Made from sotanghon, a rounded stew grown in many countries though it is said to originate from the Caribbean, the process includes the batter being rolled on decorative molds, then each piece is separated with a cookie cutter.

We were told that the supply of seseo out is a problem because there are very few women in the generations ago. Bar tending Mindoro is the principal supplier of Banate bakeries, baking ingredients, equipment, producers, antique stores.

Writing ink

Our bakery culture is so rich that there's so much to write about. And why not do it for the Doreen Gamboa Fernandez Food Writing Award. Aug. 31 is the deadline. The essay should be at least 800 words printed out and saved to a CD. Write your pen name on the essay but enclose an envelope with your pen name and real name, address and contact numbers. Send to the DGF Food Writing Award Committee, c/o PROFILE, 5th Floor, PDCP Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City 1200. Call Gilda at 8912021.

Feedback

Ellen Steiner of Baguio City misses the chopping board from Banaue. She used to get her supply from her sister-in-law who worked as a doctor in Banaue, the capital, but who is now assigned to Amravilla.

She writes: "I miss that recipe. We have fresh bread, too, here in Baguio from Dagupan, but not as a recipe. We call it donut, not bimol. Maybe that is the Pangasinan term for it... I really miss this recipe so much. Great with tips tomorrow and for snacking time."

She hopes that Amravilla Baing can supply Baguio with the chopping board.

Editor Sharon G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

Mobile alert: Text INQUIRER SHOWBIZ send to 2222 for Globe Text INQUIRER ENTERTAINMENT send to 2366 for Smart | E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

INSIDE

■ Piolo eyed for Ninoy role in Cory film/D5
■ Eugene Domingo gets lead movie role/D6

That was for you, Tita Cory

ALLOW ME PLEASE TO thank everyone who has spoken or written to me about my performance at "Bayan Ko" at President Cory Aquino's requiem Mass on Aug. 5.

BACK STORY

Lea Salonga

It started when I sent a text message to Gilda Bodla asking for Kris Aquino's cell phone number, so that I could express my family's condolences. Shortly after, Tita Gilda asked if I was on tours. I said yes. She said the organizing committee for the funeral Masses was wondering if I could sing for the ecumenical service on Sunday evening. I said yes. She then asked me to coordinate with Fr. Manoling Francisco, SJ. Sooo enough, I was telling Tita Gilda and Fr. Manoling, "Exactly what would (he/she) want me singing? Did Tita Cory have a favorite song?"

Tita Gilda and Fr. Manoling got back to me with almost identical text messages: "It's (he's) not sure if you sing 'Bayan Ko' at the funeral Mass on Wednesday morning—after the final listening. Can you do it?"

I said yes, I would be honored. ("Thank you, Kris, for asking.")

I then sent a text to Rajo Laurel, to ask if he had anything appropriate that I could wear. He said he would mark a white top for me to wear with black trousers. ("Thank you, Rajo!)

Tita Gilda said a mimo-ene would be positioned for me. I asked that it be sent to me on Monday, to allow me to live with it for a couple of days. Marvin Querido would do the arrangement. The good folks at "KAMI" (who were in charge of making the mimeo ene) sent a rough mix Monday night. Marvin e-mailed a music chart that detailed the lead-in from the instrumental, and finally sound engineer Angee Bansal sent the final mix on Tuesday. Thank you all so very much.

My mother made reservations at the Bulkley Philippine Plaza Hotel in order to be closer to the Manila Cathedral (I live off the easy in the south, and I wasn't willing to take chances with the traffic). Once settled in my room, I turned on the shower, stood under the stream of hot water, and started singing, running "Bayan Ko" at least three times just to get it into my system.

I FAILED to stop it together. The Aquino family had asked me to sing; I was not about to disappoint them. —INQUIRER

Before running in last Tuesday night, I said a silent prayer: 'Dear Lord, help me sing from the heart... and if the tears should flow, then let them'

got one final e-mail: song division for "Handog ng Pilipino sa Manila," to be performed by all the singers who would be present at the requiem Mass. I fell asleep running the lyrics of "Bayan Ko" in my head.

I had a wake-up call set for 6:30 a.m. to allow my voice to wake up properly. I got started on makeup and hair before anyone else was awake. My husband Mob was already on his way to the hotel to meet us; we would then head to the Manila Hotel, the artists' meeting place. Since we arrived a good 45 minutes before the 7 a.m. call time, we had breakfast at the coffee shop. Over the course of the meal, we spotted other musicians and friends, and a few of the other singers participants. At exactly 7 a.m., we boarded to the Gallery Paseriera buses to rehearse "Handog..." with everyone (including the 1pp Hiking Society, Ogie Alcasid, Jose Mari Chan, Dulce, Sarah Geronimo, Jed Madela, Martin Nievera, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Pinky Pascual, Erik Santos, and Regine Velasquez).

No words could adequately describe the spirit of reverence and camaraderie in that room, a bunch of artists expressing our collective grief over Tita Cory's passing and, at the same time, hope for the future of the country and our people.

—Lea Salonga

THE FABULOUSLY hot crew act known as Lady Gaga struts her stuffin Seoul, Korea, on Sunday (U.S. last night, she performed in a said, see show at the Amoeba Coliseum. Tickets ran out a week before the concert, with inquiries from fans as early as June. With just one album, her 2008 debut release, "The Fame," Lady Gaga skyrocketed to worldwide acclaim as she created a pop formula of disco music, metal beats and a glam-rock essence.

DID YOU KNOW...

MICHAEL Jackson

Jackson film out in October

LOS ANGELES—Sony switched by Michael Jackson's sudden death on June 25 before a long-awaited return to the stage may find comfort in a film showing his ill and reformed.

"This is it," to be released worldwide starting Oct. 28, will be drawn from hundreds of hours of backstage footage of Jackson rehearsing and feature interviews about friends and creative collaborators, Sony studios announced Monday.

It is rumored after the series of 50 London concerts the star had planned in preform for 'Sir July farewell'. Before his

JACKSON 20

SM CINEMA

www.smcinema.com

CONGRATULATIONS!
ERWIN CELIS OF PASIG CITY

An avid SM Cinema moviegoer won a TRIP FOR 2 TO DUBAI for 6 days and 5 nights with roundtrip airfare & hotel accommodation

PLUS: WINNER WILL ALSO GET TO EXPERIENCE THESE ACTIVITIES IN DUBAI:
On land: boarding across the dunes in a Hummer H2
Over the skyline: Board the Seat of Dubai in a hot air boat ride
To high above the Dubai skyline in an Augusta A 119 grand helicopter

SM CINEMA

METRO MANILA
RESERVED SEATS NOW AVAILABLE

PODIUM

IMAX

G.I. JOE: THE RISE OF COBRA

LUZON

VISAYAS • MINDANAO

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED IN ALL SM CINEMA BRANCHES

At the Cinemas

AyalaMalls

GLORIETTA 4

GREENBELT 1

GREENBELT 3

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU

MARKETMARKET!

TRINOMA

For verification, please call 726-7771

LIVE VIA SATELLITE

From Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
No Commercial Breaks!
Larger Than Life!
Guaranteed Seats!

August 16, 2009 - Sunday - 8am (Manila Time)

GLORIETTA 4 • TRINOMA

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

glorietta Tri Noma

At the Malls

GLORIETTA
Express Star Mood of Dora Live at Glorietta
August 28-30 & September 4-6 @ 4:00pm
Dorasia Atrium

GREENBELT
Eco Art Exhibit
August 28 - September 11
Greenbelt 3 Right Wing

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Musical Comedy and Karaoke with Levels of Dora Contest and Celebrity Academy August 7, 14 & 21; 4:00pm; Fountain Area

AYALA CENTER CEBU
The A-List Wish List Shop and win a Volvo S60, Vios, 20 units of LG LCD TV & 32 Laptops
May 29-August 30, 2009

MARKET! MARKET!
Guest Today - Dora! Dora Hotseat arrives to the Festival Mall at grand prizes
August 14-16

TRINOMA
Dora The Explorer Special Meet & Greet
August 13, 4:00 pm & August 14, 1:00pm
Level 4 Activity Area

ONSTAGE
Jack And The Beanstalk
August 8 - December 13, 2009
For more details, please call
Pinoy at 897-0710

EXPLORE THE WORLD OF DORA
LIVE AT THE AYALA MALLS!

Answer the activity to earn a yellow ticket.
Collect 5 yellow tickets and proceed to any Activity Hub
Duration: From August 8 to September 6, 2009
and take home a fun prize.

SAVE THE DATE!
OBJECTS BY COMPLETING THE WORDS!

P_ _ t_
B_ l_ _ n
C_ p_ _ _ _

glorietta GREENBELT Tri Noma

That was for you...

DID YOU KNOW... THE THX certified Cocoon 3 Cinema 1 is now equipped with Dolby 3D Digital Cinema technology. What was once viewed as "flat" images now spring to life with realistic clarity. Audiences will be asked to wear glasses and a floating lenses to find as if they were "in" the movie.

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1 BOOK OF ELI'S	2 G.I. JOE (PG-13) 2:20, 5:00 7:40, 10:20	3 THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) 1:10, 3:50 6:30, 8:10, 10:00	
4 AND I LOVE YOU SO	5 THE HANGOVER	6 G.I. JOE (PG-13) 1:30, 4:10 6:50, 9:30	
7 ULTRA 7	G.I. JOE (PG-13) 1:00, 3:40 6:20, 9:00		

NOW SHOWING

"More shocking and real than 'THE EXORCIST' and 'AMITYVILLE HORROR'"

THERE ARE STILL SPOKEN OF THE DEAD THAT TO BE TOLD... INSIDE THIS HAUNTED HOUSE

CLIVE BARKER'S BOOK OF BLOOD

Holding it together

When Kris' turn to speak came, I had a feeling it would be a very emotional outpouring, one that threatened to make me lose my composure

When Kris' turn to speak came, I had a feeling it would be a very emotional outpouring of love from a daughter to her mother—one that threatened to make me lose my composure. As her tears flowed freely, I looked up at the ceiling ... the floor ... at Pinky Pascual's perfect profile ... anything that would keep me composed and not the mush we turned. The Spoiler finally had asked me to sing (order.) I was not about to disappoint them.

Finally, after Bishop Villegas blessed Tita Cory one last time, the floor director called for me to take my standby position. I took one look at the little bit of marking tape that marked where I should stand, then got my microphone from the sound man. I said a silent prayer, using the words of a friend: "Jesus Lord, help me to sing today ... let me sing from the heart ... and if the best should think then let them." I gave my go signal, I stood on the piece of masking tape, scanned the people in front of me, took a deep breath and sang.

I held it together. I couldn't break. That was for you, Tita Cory.

Once finished and back in my chair, relief and relaxation swept over me. I thanked God for His love and divine inspiration. My mom and husband, who sat behind me, seemed pleased, as did Tim Gitby and the rollers at first.

Then Kris soon stopped singing to be done, even after the funeral procession to the Manila Memorial Park had begun. Our finale was "Bonding ng Filipino sa Himala," the song made famous following the 1986 People Power Revolution. It felt so good to sing it today especially the line, "Ito ay isang pulo ng mga Filipino." Mga kababayan ko din.

Salamat sa inyo, Tita Cory. Thank you for giving us a reason to hold our heads high as Filipinos. Thank you for your courage, strength, integrity, honesty, warmth, and sincerity. All of us sing our hearts out for you. It was the least we could do, after all you've given us.

'Your Songs'

Anyway-ing: "Live Solenge ... Your Songs." Dawn na naaaaaaaaaa!

"Your Songs" will be staged at the PICC Plenary Hall on Dec. 11 and 12. My guests will be Ai Ai de las Alas, Richard Poon and the award-winning dance group Philippine All Stars. PLDT-smart's 4th year sponsorship. The show will be presented by Anthony Miralla and directed by Bobby Garcia, musical direction by Gerard Salonga. Tickets will be available at Ticketworld (891-9999 or www.ticketworld.com.ph).

I know that I would definitely have a major concert this year, following last year's "My Life On Stage." Try to do something different with each big show I do. For me reading, it's nothing but Broadway songs. For another, it's songs from the movies. So for our next major concert it's our own Pinoy brand of music. Last year, it was a celebration of my 30 years as a performer.

A few months ago I started searching my brain about what I could possibly do for my next big show. Should I do a Broadway concert, just don't? That's an idea, maybe for another time, one that my Pinoy composer friend Sonny coached, me the theme songs that are calling out to be sung!

Think. Lea, think ...

Then it hit me, why not get my fans and friends to help in the creation of the show?

Over the years I've have conversations with colleagues and friends about the concerts I've done or would be doing. Some would always make suggestions in conversations: "You should sing such-and-such ... now that duet goes right here." Although I would take said pieces of advice seriously, most of the time, some selections would come from the producers, a few "coordinator-mom" from comedy scenes would make it, but that's all.

This time will be very different, as 100 percent of the songs I'll be singing will be suggested by YOU, YOU and especially YOU!

Already requests have been coming in via the concert's official website, http://learsongs.com/, ranging from rock power ballads and pop to jazz and R&B. I encourage all of you to "think outside the box" and request something unexpected, unlikely, and most of all, FUN! You have until Sept. 30 to put something in.

Those of you who have sent your song ideas, many—thanks!

More details are available on the website. Yes, you send photos of you and me for my scrapbook, a video request, to a video audition to win the chance to sing with my on-stage! Kanya-kanya!

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Movies/ Schedules/ Prices Subject To Change Without Prior Notice

Walter Mart

NOW SHOWING

SOME GUYS JUST CAN'T HANDLE VEGAS.

THE HANGOVER

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

WATCH IT LIVE!

PINOY POWER

DONAIRE vs CONCEPCION

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 4

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Based on the #1 best-selling novel by Audrey Niffenegger

Available at Fully Booked, Powerbooks & National Bookstores Nationwide

The Time Traveler's Wife

Rachel McAdams Eric Bana

OPENS AUG 19

Love is Space and Time Measured by the Heart

GARFIELD

AL LIPIN

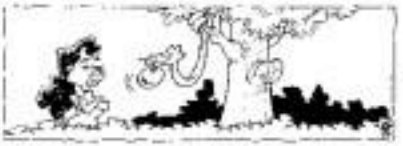
FUSAO BARDY

DICK TRACY

LOVEKNOTS

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY



BABY BLUES

TULDOK

MIN

ATOMO AND WEBOT

RIKO MACHINE

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

Love story focus of Cory film

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE LOVE STORY OF FORMER PRESIdent Corazon Aquino and then opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino will be the focus of a biopic to be produced by Star Cinema, which will begin principal photography in the first quarter of 2010.

ABS-CBN senior vice president and managing director Malou Santos made the announcement Tuesday, saying that the film unit of ABS-CBN is eyeing Piolo Pascual to play the young Ninoy and Dawnguta Gov. Vilma Santos, as the adult Cory.

"I want the movie to show how President Cory was like either she was still being courted by Ninoy," Malou said because entertainment is a prime interview. "I want to see how she coped when her husband was incarcerated for seven years."

Cory married Ninoy in 1954. They had five children: Ballsy, Pinky, Viel, and Kris. Ninoy was arrested and imprisoned shortly after then president Ferdinand Marcos declared Martial Law in 1972.

Malou added that the biopic would also show how Cory took care of her family as they lived in exile in the United States for three years in the 1980s.

Daughter, sister, friend

"I also want the viewers to see how she was like as a daughter, a sister and a best friend," added Malou. "The movie should also show how close she was to Fr. Catalino Arevalo (Cory's spiritual advisor)."

Malou said Star Cinema is now in the process of securing a creative team for the biopic. It is aiming for an international release, according to Adjarom director Rory Lipugan.

Malou said she broached the idea of a biopic on Cory to Kris, a Kapamilya contract artist, early this week. The actress/TV host instantly agreed.

"She will consult the Aquino family every step of the way," Malou stressed. "This is a big project and should not be rushed."

Meanwhile, Vilma admitted that the news of her inclusion in the project has made her very nervous. "I honestly don't know how to react," said the award-winning actress. "Is Star Cinema sure about this? Kompiat ako eh! This is not an ordinary movie. It's a big honor to be considered for the role but it also requires a lot of preparation."

Reservations

Vilma, however, has a few reservations. "I have to know them (Star Cinema bosses). Give-take," she pointed out. "The movie I made with them, 'In My Life,' has yet to be shown. There's also the issue of whether or not I would run for re-election next year."

"But imagine if this project pushes through with me," said Vilma, "it would be one of the biggest films I'd ever make."

Star Cinema readily presented a plan "If Vilma would agree to do the film, we would make sure that she'd work on her scenes before she gets really busy with the elections," said Malou.

E-mail: mcruz@philstar.com.ph

Jackson...

[illegible] death from an apparent cardiac arrest at a rented mansion in Los Angeles.

Sony said the film "will allow Jackson fans and music lovers worldwide a rare, behind-the-scenes look at the performer, his career and the stage spectacular that would have been."

Most of the footage was shot in June 2009 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, home of the Los Angeles Lakers basketball team and the site of the Jackson tribute watched by millions of people around the world. Other scenes were shot at The Forum in Inglewood, California.

The footage was "captured in high definition with state-of-the-art digital sounds," Sony said, adding that select segments would be in 3-D. AFP

CINEMA ACCESS: 395-5555
MOVIEWORLD
ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA
1 G.I. JOE
2 THE PROPOSAL
3 THE HANGOVER
4 BOOK OF BLOOD
5 AND I LOVE YOU SO
6 ORPHAN / G.I. JOE
7 LITTLE BOY BIG BOY
8 G.I. JOE
9 SHOWBIZ
10 AND I LOVE YOU SO

ERMITA
1 BOOK OF BLOOD
2 THE HANGOVER
3 G.I. JOE
4 THE PROPOSAL
5 AND I LOVE YOU SO
6 AND I LOVE YOU SO
7 G.I. JOE / ORPHAN

METRO EAST
1 G.I. JOE
2 G.I. JOE
3 BOOK OF BLOOD
4 THE HANGOVER
5 THE PROPOSAL
6 ORPHAN
7 HARRY POTTER 6
8 AND I LOVE YOU SO

NOVALICHES
1 G.I. JOE
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 THE HANGOVER
4 BOOK OF BLOOD

PIONEER
1 G.I. JOE
2 THE HANGOVER
3 BOOK OF BLOOD
4 AND I LOVE YOU SO

STA. ROSA
1 AND I LOVE YOU SO
2 G.I. JOE
3 HAUNTED
4 BARBOLITHA NIGHTS 2

LIPA
1 AND I LOVE YOU SO
2 G.I. JOE
3 THE PROPOSAL
4 FROM WITHIN

DASMARIÑAS
1 AND I LOVE YOU SO
2 G.I. JOE
3 THE HANGOVER
4 HAUNTED

IMUS
1 AND I LOVE YOU SO
2 THE HANGOVER
3 G.I. JOE
4 HAUNTED

STARMILLS
1 G.I. JOE
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 ORPHAN
4 IT'S ALIVE
5 THE PROPOSAL
6 CORELON CONSPIRACY

ANGELES
1 G.I. JOE
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 ORPHAN
4 THE AMUSEMENT

TACLOBAN
1 AND I LOVE YOU SO
2 G.I. JOE
3 THE PROPOSAL

BACOLOD
1 G.I. JOE
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 THE PROPOSAL
4 PUBLIC ENEMIES
5 BLOOD: THE LAST VAMPIRE
6 AND I LOVE YOU SO

ILOILO
1 G.I. JOE
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 THE PROPOSAL
4 PUBLIC ENEMIES
5 HAUNTED
6 AND I LOVE YOU SO

Exclusive to Citi Cardholders: Watch these blockbuster movies, FREE*!

Get 1 free movie pass for a minimum single-receipt purchase of P1,500 with your Citi Card anywhere from July 24 to September 30, 2009.

See flyers or visit www.citibank.com for details.

MOVIEWORLD
citi

Sidekick comic makes solo big screen debut

By Rayzal Sun Diego Jr.

AFTER YEARS OF PLAYING sidekick and best friend to big stars like Al-Al de las Alas and Maricel Soriano, comic Eugene Domingo has finally landed a solo movie, "Kimmy Dora," directed by Joyce Bernal and produced by Viva Films.

Domingo, who topbills GMA TV's "Ishh si Yo" and "Cool Center," regards the debut movie as her latest test as thespian.

"It's like doing my college thesis all over again," says Domingo, who took up Theater arts in UP Diliman. "This movie is like a real, rewarding activity where I can showcase what I've learned so far, be tested, and grounded (but be supported by creative and great) as people in my franchising film."

To push her to the limit, scriptwriter Chris Martinez (who directed her in "KKK") crafted a dual role for Eugene, temperamental Kimmy and sweet-natured Dora.

"Dora is a friend from my college days and a reference to my own experience as an actress," she relates. "I requested that he write something different and challenging. While shooting, I wondered if maybe I asked for too much!"

And since she's portraying twins, Eugene had to do some screen tests. "I had to study and remember every detail because I had to do Kimmy and Dora's scenes together from 'Ber' form different looks, postures and ways of speaking," she recounts.

Dressing

"Physically dressing," she describes the issues. "Direk Joyce made sure to challenge my wardrobes by giving me tight and classy scenes. I even had to model through mall."

Plus, she had to learn a restaurant and hire trolling near Dingdong Dantes.

"I'm thankful that our production designer and stylist were considerate enough to know a romantic made to really fit my body," she recalls. "I thought everything was okay. But the camera ended out during the shoot and we had to redirect the [artists] room. Crazy camera was overwhelmed!"

As for kissing one of the world's sexiest men? "I was nervous, of course. I don't usually do kissing scenes and I had to do this one with Ding-ding. But act always on: It's needed to be covered."

Think love scenes was "hardly necessary," she added. "But definitely fun and dangerously passionate. Wow! We had three takes because our legs laughing—until my lips hurt and I almost suffocated laughing."

In her eKimmy or a Dora in real life? "I'm Kimmy and Dora combined," Eugene says. "I can be quiet and yet sweet and, sometimes, naive, my friend Chris puts it aptly: I'm Kimmy three days a month, and Dora for the rest of the month. I think there are a Kimmy and Dora in every one."

She makes that are of her "schizophrenic" nature in her two Espanto shows. "On Sabi, I get to play good and evil all the same time, which on 'Cool' people get to know me more as 'Eugene' character, away from all the characters I've played on TV and in the movies."

EUGENE Domingo as Kimmy and Dora

THE HAIR FIX:
ULTRA-LUSH VOLUMIZER

From puberty to post-menopause, female hairloss can set in. Thinning hair makes millions of women suffer loss of self-confidence, feelings of inferiority, anxiety and depression. It's time to end the hairless nightmare. Say goodbye to thinning hair – the intensive, more effective way! **Svenson's Ultra-Lush Volumizer** is an anti-hairloss treatment that uses an advanced technology to quickly control and stop thinning, and help recover hair's original volume, bounce and health.

You'll never suffer from hairloss again! Call now for a FREE private consultation.

Svenson
call 892-HAIR (4247)

POWER PLANT CINEMA

THE PROPOSAL –REG 1.10, 3.30, 5.50, 8.10, 10.30	G.I. JOE: THE RISE OF COBRA – REG 12.30, 2.55, 5.10, 8.00, 10.30	AND I LOVE YOU SO 1.00, 3.20, 5.40, 8.00, 10.20
G.I. JOE: RISE OF THE COBRA – 3D 2 11.00, 2.30	G.I. JOE: RISE OF THE COBRA – 3D 1.30, 4.00, 8.30, 11.00	THE IMAGINERS – REG 12.30, 3.00, 5.30, 8.00, 10.30

MOVIES SCHEDULED SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

The Miele Guide 2009 Restaurant Month August 2009

Dine Out, Fight Hunger.

A meaningful charity initiative organised by The Miele Guide, Asia's very first independent restaurant guide. 57 of Asia's best restaurants in China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam will offer special promotions in support of The Miele Guide Restaurant Month. 15% of revenues from these promotions will be donated to the United Nations World Food Programme in aid of their activities to combat hunger and poverty in Timor Leste.

Participating Restaurants

China
Hong Kong
Indonesia
Japan
Malaysia
Philippines
Singapore
Thailand
Vietnam

Organised by
The Miele GUIDE

In support of
WFP World Food Programme

Official Media Partners
Regional: International Herald Tribune
Hong Kong: Weekend Weekly
Indonesia: The Jakarta Post
Japan: The Japan Times
Philippines: Philippine Daily Inquirer
Singapore: Lush 99.5 FM

Supported By
LGS Corporation
Villa Bilingual

www.mieleguide.com/restaurant-month